Ann Arbor Observer

February 2009

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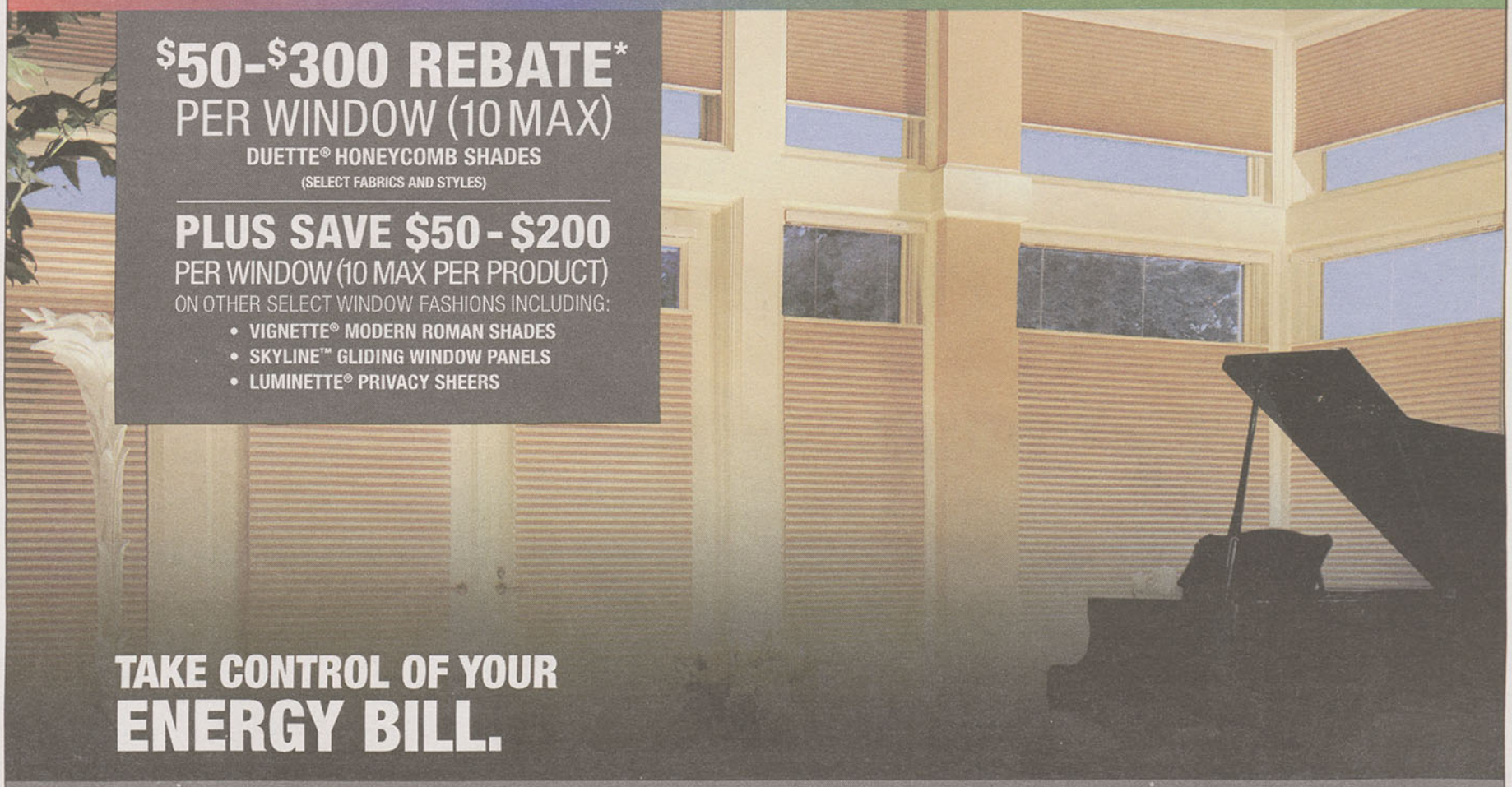

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CITY OF ANN ARBOR: Parks & Recreation

Buhr Park Outdoor Ice Arena

Buhr Outdoor Ice Arena (2751 Packard Road) is now open. To learn more visit **www.a2gov.org/buhr** or call 734.794.6234.

Public Skating & Drop-in Hockey
We offer public skating seven-days-a-week at varying times. There's also drop-in hockey & broom ball as well as extended skating hours during school break sessions in February and March. Go online for dates and times.

Buhr Blitz Day
Feb. 21 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. General admission rates apply. Join us for an afternoon of special games, contests and prizes.

Funky Frosty Fridays
The 2nd and 4th Friday of each month during our general skate from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. Skate under our mirror balls to themed music & dress up to win prizes for best costume! Feb. 13, Valentine's Skate; Feb. 27, Rock the 80s; March 13, St. Patrick's Day theme.

Veterans Memorial Ice Arena

Instructional Skating: Session IV: March 23 to May 9, $67/55 resident discount.
Recreational Hockey League: For adults who have never played in organized leagues (novice) as well as players who are 30 years or older. March through mid May. Games are typically on Tuesday & Saturday nights. Fees are $183 per player and goalies are half-priced. Call 734.794.6235 to register. www.a2gov.org/vets.

Mack Indoor Pool

American Red Cross group swim classes are offered at Mack Indoor Pool (715 Brooks Street) for ages 6 months to adult beginners. Class levels 1-3, parent/child and adult run 30 minutes each, while class levels 4-6 run 45 minutes each. Upcoming session: March 7 to May 2. To register visit **www.a2gov.org/parks** or call 734.794.6237.

Ann Arbor Senior Center

1320 Baldwin Ave. 734.794.6250. Visit www.a2gov.org/senior
Strength & Conditioning: Equipment is provided. 8 weeks, 14 instruction hours. Mondays & Wednesdays 10 to 11 a.m., March 3 to April 22. $86/$70 resident discount.

Yoga: 6 weeks, 9 instruction hours. Tuesdays, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Feb. 10 to March 17. $54/$43 resident discount.

Intermediate French Class: Wednesdays, 12:30 to 2 p.m. March 4 to April 22. $50/ $40 resident discount.

Conversational French Class: Wednesdays, 9:45 to 11:30 a.m. March 4 to April 22. $50/ $40 resident discount.

Tax Preparation: AARP volunteers will assist persons ages 60+ with their Federal and State Income Tax forms (1040 and schedule A, B, or D). Call to schedule an appointment today. 734.794.6250.

Beginning Bridge Class: Fridays, 9-10:30 a.m. Feb. 13 to March 20, $36.

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Mack Indoor Pool
715 Brooks Street, 734.794.6237
Coupon valid for one free youth admission to the pool with the purchase of one adult admission.

Veterans Memorial Park
2150 Jackson Road, 734.794.6235
Coupon valid for one free admission with the purchase of one adult admission to the ice arena.

Parks&Recreation CITY OF ANN ARBOR

We're sorry but photocopies of this coupon will not be accepted. Offer expires March 31, 2009.

SNOW REMOVAL

City of Ann Arbor

STREETS

Where there is light snow or ice on road surfaces, the City's Public Services Area clears over 94 miles of high volume streets, bridges, intersections with stop signs or traffic signals, and streets with curves. De-icing materials are applied to provide better traction for vehicles to help prevent accidents at high-risk locations. The street clearing process takes about five hours and may be repeated as needed. After the major and high-risk streets are cleared, City crews de-ice the local streets in the City, which requires ten to twelve hours.

When a snowfall of four inches or more occurs, street snow plowing begins and the City Administrator may declare that a "snow emergency" is in effect. Plowing is done on all public streets and City-owned property; however, all schools and privately owned areas provide for their own de-icing and plowing. Citizens are advised to remove cars from curbside parking to allow for effective street plowing.

When a "snow emergency" is in effect, illegally parked vehicles may be ticketed and towed.

The City snow desk is staffed when a snow emergency is in effect. The snow desk tracks the location of plows throughout the City and provides information to the public about the plowing progress. You may reach the snow desk at 994-2359.

*** On days having odd-numbered dates, vehicles are prohibited from parking on the side of the street having even-numbered street addresses**– in order to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses in legal spaces.

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SIDEWALKS

When there is a snow event in Ann Arbor, the City depends on its citizens to be helpful, responsible, and aware of the need to remove all snow and ice from the public sidewalks including walks and ramps leading to a cross walk.

During the winter months, many Ann Arbor residents (including children walking to school and the physically challenged) need to be able to safely use the public sidewalks. This means that all snow and ice should be removed from the entire constructed width enabling people of all ages and physical conditions to have access to clean pedestrian walkways. City council has passed an ordinance regarding snow removal (violations can result in fines up to $500), but reminds you that sidewalk snow removal is simply a combination of courtesy and caring toward all those who need to use the public sidewalks.

The City reminds owners or occupants of non-residentially zoned properties that all snow and ice which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk prior to 6am must be removed by noon. Immediately after the accumulation of ice on such a sidewalk it must be treated with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery. Within 24 hours after the end of each accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch, the owner or occupant of every residentially zoned property must remove the accumulation from the adjacent public sidewalk. Remember, accumulation can occur from any source including precipitation and drifting, and the term "sidewalk" includes adjacent walks and ramps leading to crosswalks, typically at corners. Ice must be treated as mentioned above and removed within 24 hours after accumulation. Last but certainly not least, please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme cold.

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Winter Season from the City of Ann Arbor

Please save for reference throughout the snow months.

Revised August 2003

Ann Arbor Observer

1976 ◆ 2009

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Publisher
Patricia Garcia

Editor
John Hilton

Deputy Editor
Michael Betzold

Managing Editor
Laura McReynolds

Senior Editor
Paul R. Schwankl

Assistant Editor
Sally Wright Day

Editorial Assistants
Mary Beth Lewis • James M. Manheim
Leslie Smith • Bob Wischmeyer

Profiles Editor
Eve Silberman

Calendar Editor
John Hinchey

Assistant Calendar Editor
Katie Whitney

Webmaster
Valerie Mates

Writers
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Kevin Duke • Vickie Elmer • Bix Engels
Jay Forstner • Noah Hahn • Stephanie Kadel-Taras
James Leonard • Mary Beth Lewis
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Erick Trickey

Senior Photographer
J. Adrian Wylie

Photographers
Mark Bialek • Sally Bjork • Julian Konwinski
Alicia Meza-Wilson • Chris Randle • Kati Shanks
Peter Smith

Artists
Tim Athan • Jerimiah B. Brown • John Copley
Steve Gilzow

Creative Director
Caron Valentine-Marsh

Production Coordinator
Tabitha Walters

Senior Designer
Joel DeJong

Design & Production
Jerimiah B. Brown • Lisa Jacobs

Advertising Director
Danielle Robillard

Senior Advertising Executives
Julie McCrackin Cole • Vikki Enos

Advertising Executives
Linda Damon • Sandi Patterson

Advertising Coordinator
Amy Gaulke

Business Manager
Jean Morgan

Circulation Manager
Olivia Gailliard

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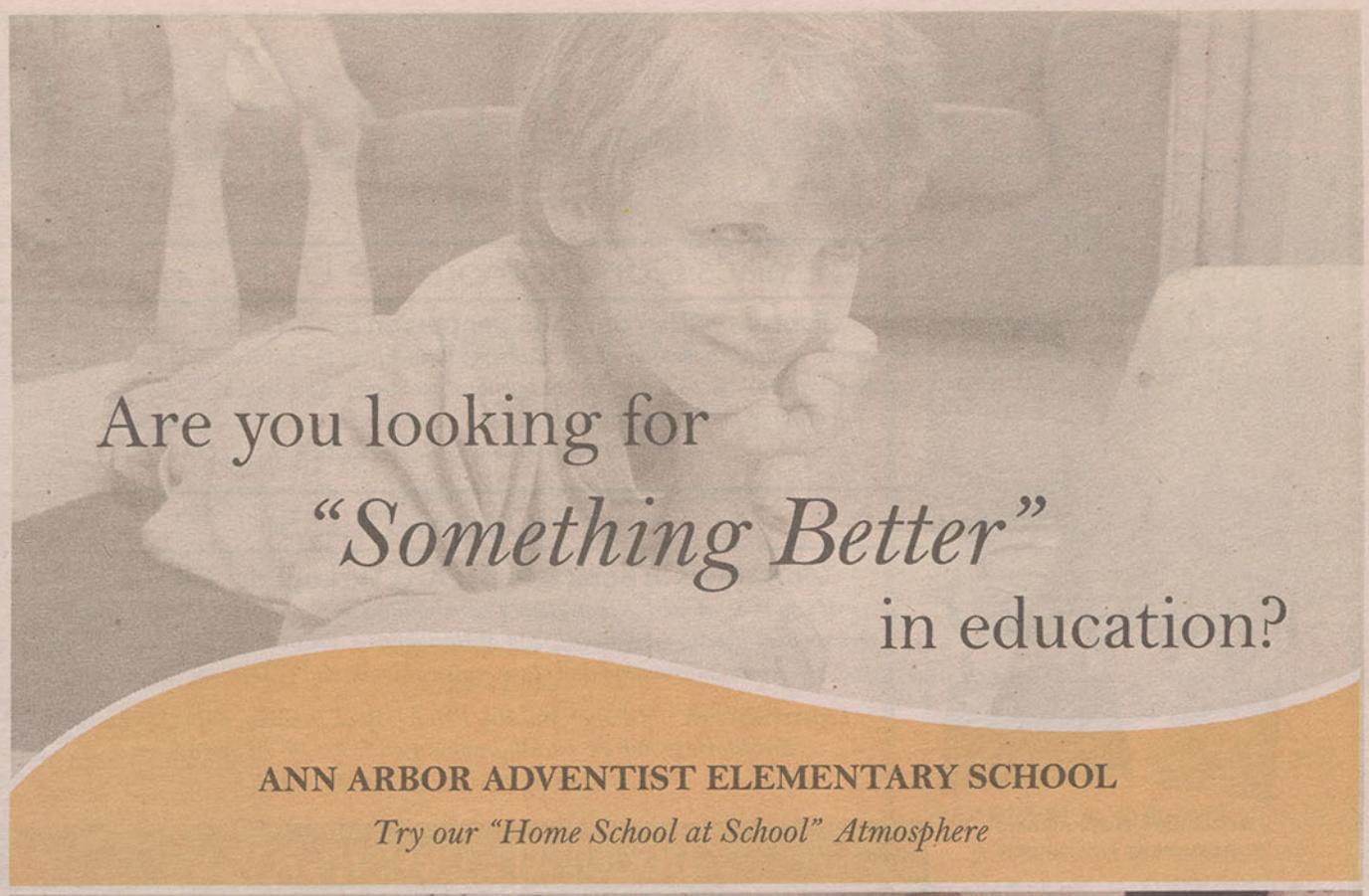

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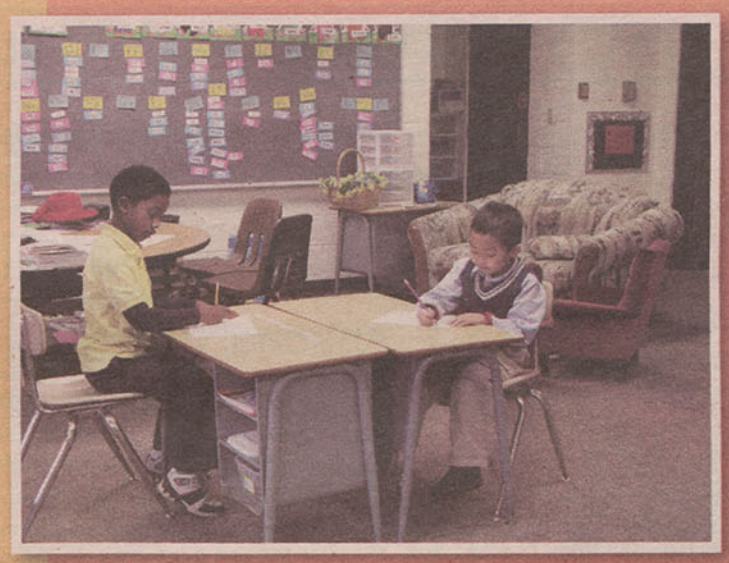

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February Events 2009

Kerrytown Market & Shops

Beginners Bookbinding Workshop at Hollander's

Chocolate Crush at v2v

Emily's Commemorative Dinner *at* eve

February 4th, 7pm - $85 per person *(tax and gratuity additional)*

We are so excited to welcome Rick Halberg, formerly of the beloved Emily's restaurant in Northville to eve as a partner and general manager. Rick will be in the kitchen for the evening preparing some of his favorite dishes from over a decade at Emily's. For reservations call: 734.222.0711

at HOLLANDER'S

Workshops in Book & Paper Arts Throughout February

If you ever wanted to learn about bookbinding or paper arts, this month is an excellent time to take a workshop at Hollander's. Visit www.hollanders.com for more information and class registration or call (734) 741-7531

Letterpress- Feb 1 • Paper Making- Feb 7 • Book Binding- Feb 8, 15 and 28
Box Making- Feb 14 • Calligraphy- Feb 5, 12, 19, 26 and March 5
Print Making- Feb 10, 17, 21, 22 and 24

CHOCOLATE CRUSH *at* V2V

Charity never tasted so good!

February 7, 2009 7:30 PM

Join us at Vintage to Vogue's beautiful shop in Kerrytown for an elegant evening of chocolate, wine and artistry! Indulge in unique delights from the area's best chocolate makers with: Chocolate Martini Tasting; Incredible Savory Appetizers from What's Cooking!; Wine and Beer Courtesy of Local Businesses Chocolate, Art & Romance Inspired Auctions & Raffles
$75 to $125 per person

Charge by Phone: Call Wild Swan Theater (734) 995-0530
Or stop by V2V. For more information visit www.wildswantheater.org

Bridal Event & Fashion Show

Sunday, February 8th, 12pm to 5pm in V2V

V2V will host a bridal event & fashion show from 12pm until 4pm. Full lines of Bridal gowns and Bridesmaids dresses will be featured amongst several of Ann Arbor-based businesses presenting their own bridal services. Contact V2V at 734-665-9110 for more information. Cost: $8.00 advance; $10 at the door

VALENTINE'S DAY PRIX FIXE *at* eve

Natural Aphrodisiac Valentine's Day Dinner

February 14th, 2009 all night $60 per person- wine pairings $25 additional

Join us for our fifth annual Valentine's multi-course dinner – Each course created around natural aphrodisiac ingredients in peak season from around the world! One of our most popular and, of course, sensual nights of the year! R.S.V.P. soon as our events fill up quickly! 734.222.0711

Kerrytown® Market & Shops

Monday through Friday 8am until 7pm
2nd floor merchants open at 10am

Saturdays 7am until 6pm
2nd floor merchants open at 9am

Sundays 9am until 6pm
2nd floor merchants open noon to 5pm

Artisanal Cheese of the Mid-West *at* eve

February 18th, 7pm - $50 per person

Our Regional cheese and wine seminar series continues with some of the country's finest cheeses including some very limited production cheese produced by an award-winning cheese maker in Iowa. Cheeses will be paired with wines from around the world and the evening will be hosted by our own Ari Sussman (A Mid-Western-avors dream come true!) R.S.V.P. soon as our events fill up quickly! 734.222.0711

Sparrow Market's Monthly Dinner

Sunday, February 22, 7pm to 10pm

This evening, Sparrow Market will prepare a special 5-course Italian Feast Dinner with live music. Call for more information on courses and availability. This is a popular venue, so reserve your spot early. Call 761-8175 for reservations. Cost: $45 per person.

Play the Chimes

Wednesdays & Fridays, 12:00 pm to 12:30 pm

Saturdays, 10:30 am to 11:00 am

Choose from over 100 songs and follow the numbers to play. All ages welcome.

Lunch

Monahan's Seafood
Open everyday with the freshest seafood selections especially prepared for you. Fish Tacos every Monday.

Yamato Japanese
Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Dine in or take out fine Japanese Cuisine

Kosmo Lunch Counter
Dine in or take out American & Korean fare, open everyday.

Sparrow Markets
Monday through Friday, take out Italian sandwiches & pastas

Dinner

eve- the restaurant
French-based contemporary cuisine open six days a week (closed Mondays)

Yamato Japanese
Tuesday through Sunday. Dine in or take out fine Japanese Cuisine

Kosmo Lunch Counter
Monday - Friday until 8pm. Dine in or take out American & Korean fare.

NEWS!

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Open enrollment applications are NOW available for students living in the Ann Arbor Public School district who will enter 9th grade in the 2009/2010 academic year and are interested in attending Community or Skyline High School. Follow the link to the open enrollment information on the respective school's web site, **www.a2community.org** or **www.a2skyline.org**, to begin the application process.

Should the number of applications received exceed the number of spaces available, a lottery will be held on March 9, 2009 to randomly select new enrollees. Any students not selected will be wait-listed. Results — identified by student ID# only — will be posted on the schools' websites immediately following the lottery.

Discover exceptional educational opportunities at Community and Skyline High Schools — just two of Ann Arbor's dynamic public schools dedicated to helping students aim higher.

All Ann Arbor Public Schools are now taking enrollments for the 2009/2010 school year. For a list of all schools visit:

ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS www.a2schools.org

UpFront

Partridge rule: Tom Partridge describes himself as "a disabled senior citizen." He's also a self-appointed community conscience who often scolds public officials for not doing enough to support progressive causes. "Tom has made personal comments about Republicans in general and about me in particular," says exasperated county commissioner Mark Ouimet. "Every single meeting, he makes personal attacks to Mark and myself," agrees Lodi Republican Jessica Ping. "He even said I don't pay attention to transportation issues—and I personally gave him a ride home!"

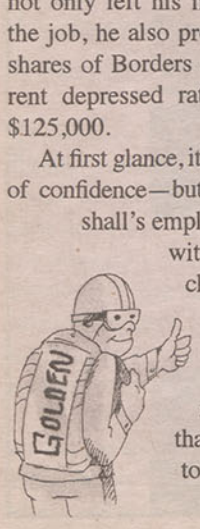
But it wasn't the Republican commissioners who decided to do something about Partridge. At the first board meeting of the year, Ann Arbor Democrat Conan Smith introduced an amendment cutting individual comments at meetings of the board's ways and means committee from five minutes to three minutes, and restricting them to topics already on the agenda. It passed with only two dissenting votes.

"People who presume that public comment is the way to change things, they're deluding themselves," Smith argues. "My goal is to restructure public engagement so citizens are in the process from beginning through the media, public forums, and small-group meetings." But in the meantime, Smith chairs the ways and means committee—and if Tom Partridge again tries to use public comment time to denounce the commissioners, says Smith, "I'm going to gavel him down."

"This move is anticitizen, antivoter, and antidemocratic," protests former board chair Jeff Irwin. "Tom Partridge has just as much right as anybody to tell us we're doing a lousy job, and he has the right to do it any way he wants." Partridge himself says he plans to "call on the public to oppose this illegal restriction on free speech and to call on the county commission to rescind the policy." He intends to bring it up—where else?—during public comment.

Act of faith? With Borders reeling from old debts and falling sales, the bookseller's board fired CEO George Jones in January. Yet new CEO Ron Marshall not only left his investment firm to take the job, he also promised to buy 200,000 shares of Borders stock. Even at the current depressed rate, that will cost him $125,000.

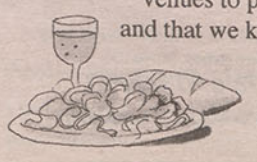
At first glance, it seems like a strong vote of confidence—but a closer look at Marshall's employment agreement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission suggests he's hedged his bets. Marshall will receive a signing bonus of $250,000—more than twice what he'll need to buy the stock—plus up to$100,000 in moving expenses (he currently lives near Minneapolis). And while Jones had options to buy Borders stock at $17.56 a share, Marshall's options are priced at just 57¢. With the stock trading at around 62¢ a share in January, he's already a bit ahead. And Marshall's $750,000-a-year salary is very well protected: even if he, too, is booted or the company changes hands, he's guaranteed most of what he'd earn under the three-year agreement. It looks as though Borders's new leader is arriving with his golden parachute packed.



Busy shelter: Are teen pregnancies on the rise in Washtenaw County? Christina Rivest, director of Father Patrick Jackson House at Main and Pauline, thinks so. Over the last four years she's seen Father Pat's, the area's only residential program for pregnant and parenting teens, go from no waiting list to a full house of five with twelve girls waiting to get in. Another disturbing trend: When the program launched in 1983, its residents were there in large part because of pressure from embarrassed families and from schools who wanted to keep teenage pregnancy out of sight and mind. Today's pregnant teens, however, are likely to be in dire financial straits. "We've been seeing more and more situations where the entire family is homeless," Rivest says, "and a growing number of clients who come to us looking for shelter because where they're living isn't safe."

Father Pat's program, which includes parenting classes and requires continued education and employment of its residents, is geared toward teens ages fifteen to nineteen. Disturbingly, though, Rivest says she and her staff have recently seen "a little bit of a bloom of eighth-graders." Because the program requires so much independence, they have chosen not to accept those youngest applicants. Instead, they work with parents or guardians to get them more support at home.

Preserving traditions: For local cooks looking to relearn old tricks, a group called Preserving Traditions is reviving an earlier concept of community: starting this month, it will be using the kitchen at the Pittsfield Grange to teach food preparation and preservation. "Many of us are trying to learn these skills, or to remember what our moms taught us," explains founder Emily Springfield. Springfield, who writes on sustainable food for the Sierra Club, says members want "to make sure the farmers can make a living wage, the customers have venues to purchase the food, and that we know how to cook and preserve the local cornucopia once we've got it in our kitchens." They're starting with homemade pasta on February 8 (sign-up is through preservingtraditions.wordpress.com).



Grange official Helen Welford says the classes fit well with "the path we are going down" to preserve rural culture and support local farmers. Down the road, Preserving Traditions may start buying in bulk from local farmers—or, as their website calls it, "cowpooling."

Echoes of 1933: Seventy-six years ago this month, the country was at the low point of the Great Depression. In Ann Arbor, American Broach, King-Seeley, and Hoover Ball and Bearing all had cut production and laid off workers. Local retail sales were half their precrash levels, and home building permits were down 80 percent. Henry Ford blamed the crisis on the bankers. According to the *Ann Arbor News*, he said they had "brought on the depression by taking everyone's money and putting it in one place where people can't get at it."

Yet life continued. An ad for Kline's department store announced, "We're fighting the recession, with deep price cuts!" Wahr's Bookstores urged residents to "forget your troubles with a jig-saw puzzle." And ads for the movie *Hot Pepper* at the Michigan Theater promised, "You'll forget every worry—and laugh like you haven't laughed in months . . . the belly-laugh this cock-eyed world needs most."

Then as now, there were high hopes for a new president. "This great nation will endure as it has endured, will revive, and will prosper," Franklin Roosevelt declared at his inauguration on March 4. "So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself." Two weeks later the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 15 percent, the largest one-day gain in its history.

Dating Ms. Arbor: An Ann Arbor woman visiting family in Minneapolis in January accompanied her college-age nephew to a movie. Returning to their car, they were dismayed to find a city cop about to ticket it for being illegally parked, something they hadn't realized. "Please don't ticket us!" pleaded the Ann Arborite. "I'm from Ann Arbor. We didn't know."

"Ann Arbor?" the burly, bundled-up cop replied. "I used to date her. About forty, isn't she?"

The Ann Arbor woman didn't miss a beat. "Actually, she's quite a bit older—more like a hundred and fifty, maybe older, I think."

"She didn't look that old," the cop insisted. Then, with a nod, he was off, leaving the two illegal parkers relieved and ticketless.

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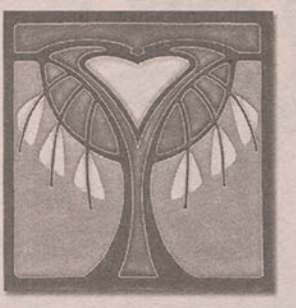

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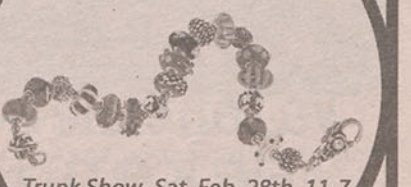

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Homeless Soccer

A local team offers exercise, friendship, and a moment of fame.

"It takes your mind off your worries," says a player during a break in a soccer game at World Wide Sports Center. Raul, a soft-spoken twenty-four-year-old, plays regularly with the SSPORT team. It's made up of men and women of various ages and skill levels whose bond is that that they are, or were recently, homeless.

SSPORT stands for Street Soccer Project Outreach Team. It was organized a year and a half ago by PORT, a city-county service whose workers provide assistance including clothes, shoes, and even tents to homeless people who shun the shelter (or are not allowed in because they drink). Coached by PORT counselor and lifelong player Sandra Silvennoinen, the team plays at West Park in the summer and at Wide World Sports in the cold months. WWS donates the field time, but finances are so tight that last winter the team played in their boots; after a fund-raising game by the Detroit Ignition pro team, PORT now is able to provide players with gym shoes, shorts, and shin guards.

Half a dozen to fifteen players show up each week. Some run and kick with vigor; others move much more slowly, like a middle-aged woman in slacks who's never played the game before. No one pays much attention to the scoreboard, but Silvennoinen says the games have had a powerful impact nonetheless. "One guy we were trying to engage with for years," she says. "We saw him at a park and said, 'Hey, come on, play.'" The man is now getting substance abuse treatment. "It's hard to play and use," Silvennoinen says.

Ann Arbor sent a team to the Homeless USA soccer competition in D.C. last year, placing fourth. Silvennoinen reports proudly that six out of seven players who competed have since moved into stable housing.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Coach Sandra Silvennoinen (right) says the team has a powerful impact. All but one of the players who competed in the Homeless USA tournament last year have since moved into stable housing.

Snow Patrol

Unshoveled sidewalks can be treacherous—and costly.

Every time it snows, Ann Arbor community standards supervisor Mike Rankin fields dozens of complaints about unshoveled sidewalks. His small staff then warns the property's owners that they're legally required to clear the walks—and tickets repeat offenders. In 2005–2007, community standards officers wrote 129 tickets totaling more than $13,000.

The worst offender in recent years, a closed gas station at 2891 Jackson Avenue, ran up $1,300 in fines for multiple violations in 2005. (It's since been remodeled to house Great Lakes Chocolate and Coffee Company, and is no longer a source of complaints.) A handful of others were billed $350 to $550 for repeat offenses—though none was hit with the maximum $1,000 fine allowed under the city code.

Sigma Nu, a fraternity at 700 Oxford, tied with the gas station as the city's most ticketed address, with four citations from 2004 to early 2008. (Emails to Sigma Nu were not returned by press time.) Also among the offenders: Theta Chi, at 1351 Washtenaw, and Kappa Sigma, at 806 Hill. Theta Chi president Matt Plonsker and Kappa Sigma president Adam DeSantis say their members are assigned to clear the sidewalks on a rotating schedule. "If it doesn't snow on your week, you get lucky," says DeSantis—but if it snows and the designated brothers don't shovel, they're responsible for paying any fines.

Three rental homes on South University belonging to the Evitt Company ran up $600 in fines in 2005. Evitt manager John Westerman says that the tenants signed leases obligating them to shovel the walks but didn't do it. Now, he says, "I just do it myself."

KATI SHANKS

Property owners who don't clear their sidewalks risk complaints from pedestrians—and hefty fines.

Westerman wonders whether the city is writing more snow removal tickets to boost revenue. But Rankin says most citations are issued because someone calls in to complain. He says he hears from a group of "regular spotters" who seem to patrol neighborhoods looking for "every house that hasn't cleaned off the snow."

One spotter, Linda Diane Feldt, says she started sending in complaints after she broke her ankle and had to navigate snowy sidewalks. "It was a terrifying experience," she says. She has emailed in "five, ten, fifteen addresses at a time while I'm out walking" on the west side and downtown. "Maybe it's my imagination," Feldt says, "but people who have been cited get the message and do a much better job" cleaning their sidewalks afterward.

Hot Stock

"It's hard to stop once it gets going," says Ann Arbor State Bank CEO Bill Broucek.

The new bank began selling stock last summer just as national banks like IndyMac were hitting the skids. Yet local investors snapped up 600,000 shares—100,000 more than AASB had initially planned. "We sold it based on the competency of the people involved as well as the economy of Ann Arbor," says Broucek, a fifty-year industry veteran.

AASB's directors include auto dealer Howard Cooper, builder Jake Haas, insurance agent Steve Kleinschmidt, Arbor Springs owner Bill Davis, and doctors from both the U-M and St. Joe's. Along with Broucek and AASB president Peter Schork, they raised $2 million more than planned.

Broucek expects that AASB's 180 investors will also be among its first customers. The bank, which opened in January in the former Anderson Paint store on William, hopes its mix of new technology and old-fashioned connections will attract $120 million in deposits within four years—a goal that, if achieved, would surpass University Bank and all but a handful of other local bank branches. Documents filed with the state reveal that about a third of its staff are drawing senior-level salaries of around $100,000 annually; Broucek and Schork top the list at $120,000.

Broucek sees no irony in starting a bank at a time when most financial news focuses on failures, bailouts, and mergers. He says that many banks are either shrinking or being "extremely, extremely conservative" about making loans. "There's a ton of business out there for those able to lend money," he says. "I get calls every day and have been for months."

MARK BIALEK

Ann Arbor State Bank CEO Bill Broucek and president Peter Schork raised $12 million in capital.

Bicycle Stampede

They call themselves the Bang Gang.

Or the Boys' and Girls' Glee Club of Ann Arbor. Or Candy Death Squad. By any name, they're a self-described "hard-core" late-night bike-riding group.

Weather permitting, they tear through town every Monday, howling at the moon and swerving through the streets. Some nights the event is massive and intense, with as many as eighty bikers—picture the fans at a Guns and Roses concert competing in the Tour de France. Other nights it's just six rogue cyclists pedaling in grandiose fervor, using such phrases as "hot mess" and playing chicken with oncoming traffic.

ALICIA MEZA-WILSON

The Bang Gang has ridden through Angell Hall but strives to "keep it reasonably illegal."

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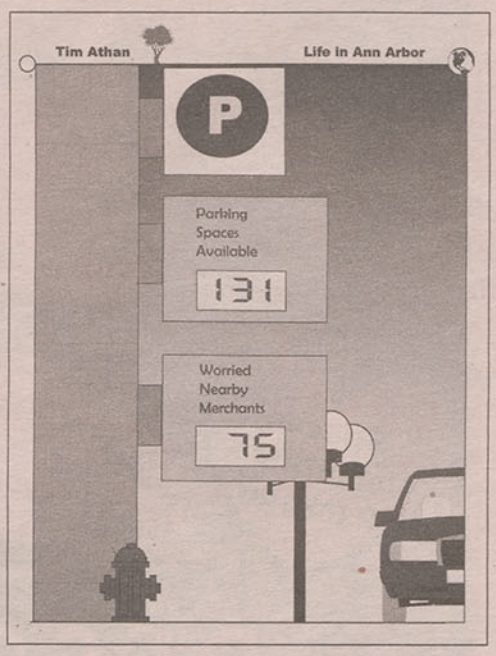
To keep the energy in the rides throughout the summer, Bang Gang has theme nights, such as Robots versus Animals Night, when the respective sides dress accordingly and "joust" in the streets—or the Glee Club Sneaker Toss, which riders commemorated by writing "BG '08" inside the tongues of old pairs of shoes and throwing them into a tree.

The ride isn't completely anarchic—participants are asked to "keep it reasonably illegal." The Bang Gang does not condone destruction of public property, and although some members have taken late-night joyrides inside Angell Hall, or across Mitchell Fields while intramural soccer games are being played, initiating contact with humans or vehicles is also forbidden. The closest the gang comes to attacking pedestrians is tossing the occasional teddy bear or balled-up pair of socks at an unsuspecting late-night walker during the Projectile theme night.

Now that the weather's too cold for riding, Bang Gang members are hibernating. To keep themselves entertained, they're brainstorming ideas and working out schematics for "monster bikes" they plan to build over the winter. But come spring they'll be out again, screaming through the streets in a grandiose hot mess.



calls & letters

The good, the ugly, and the hideous

"I read the comic pages in the January 2009 edition titled 'Boos for the Big House, Praise for the Pringle,'" Robert Greenough wrote. "Reading about architects chewing about the pros and cons of building appearance is as absurd to the general public as listening to wine aficionados discuss wine, or art critics discuss features of modern art. It is highly subjective."

Others joined the subjective debate. "I have heard over and over about people who do not like the design for the new 'Big House,'" emailed Lisa Reach. "While it is a drastic change it does maintain the brick arches that are present on many U of M buildings"—unlike the "garish and hideous new Ross Business School building," one of several campus buildings we omitted for reasons of space.

Toby Citrin spoke up for another overlooked building: "the new structure for the U.M. School of Public Health (where I work). The architect in this case, Jeff Riley of Centerbrook Architects, took a near-impossible task (joining the two very different preexisting buildings) with a new structure providing a grand new entrance, a 'Crossroads Tower' adding major new space, and various central facilities to bring the School together. The results are stunning."

Stephanie Rieke Miller of the U-M Museum of Art appreciated the praise for UMMA's addition, but noted that Roy Strickland needn't have worried that the museum was changing its main entrance. "In fact, the primary entrance to the museum will remain the ceremonial entryway through the porch of historic Alumni Memorial Hall," Miller emailed. "We look forward to welcoming the entire community to a twenty-four-hour open house celebrating the new UMMA from 6 p.m. Saturday, March 28, through 6 p.m. Sunday, March 29, 2009."

question corner

Q. What is the oldest cemetery in Ann Arbor?

A. The oldest headstone, in Terhune Pioneer Cemetery near Packard, commemorates young Emily Whitmore, who was buried in 1825. However, there are no bodies in this public park—the headstones were moved from the now-lost Pittsfield Township Cemetery nearby.

The original Ann Arbor Cemetery is now Felch Park, the wooded lot in front of Power Center. George W. Noyes, who died in a house-raising accident in 1826, is believed to have been the first person buried there, but his and the other bodies were moved to Forest Hill Cemetery after it opened in 1859.

That leaves two slightly younger cemeteries to compete for "oldest" honors. Fairview, off Pontiac Trail, saw its first burial in 1833. The first burial in Bethlehem Cemetery, off Jackson Road west of I-94, was in 1833 or 1834.

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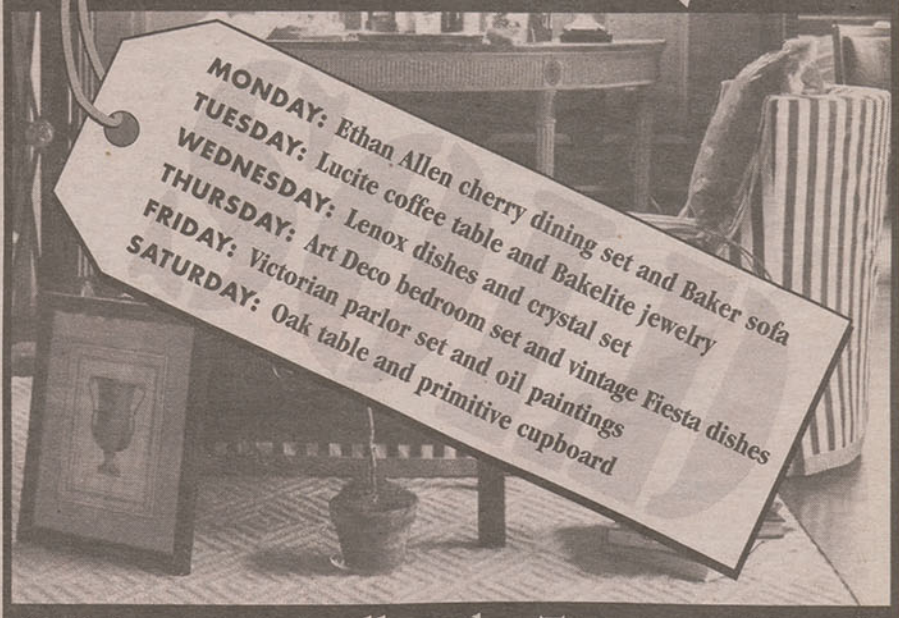
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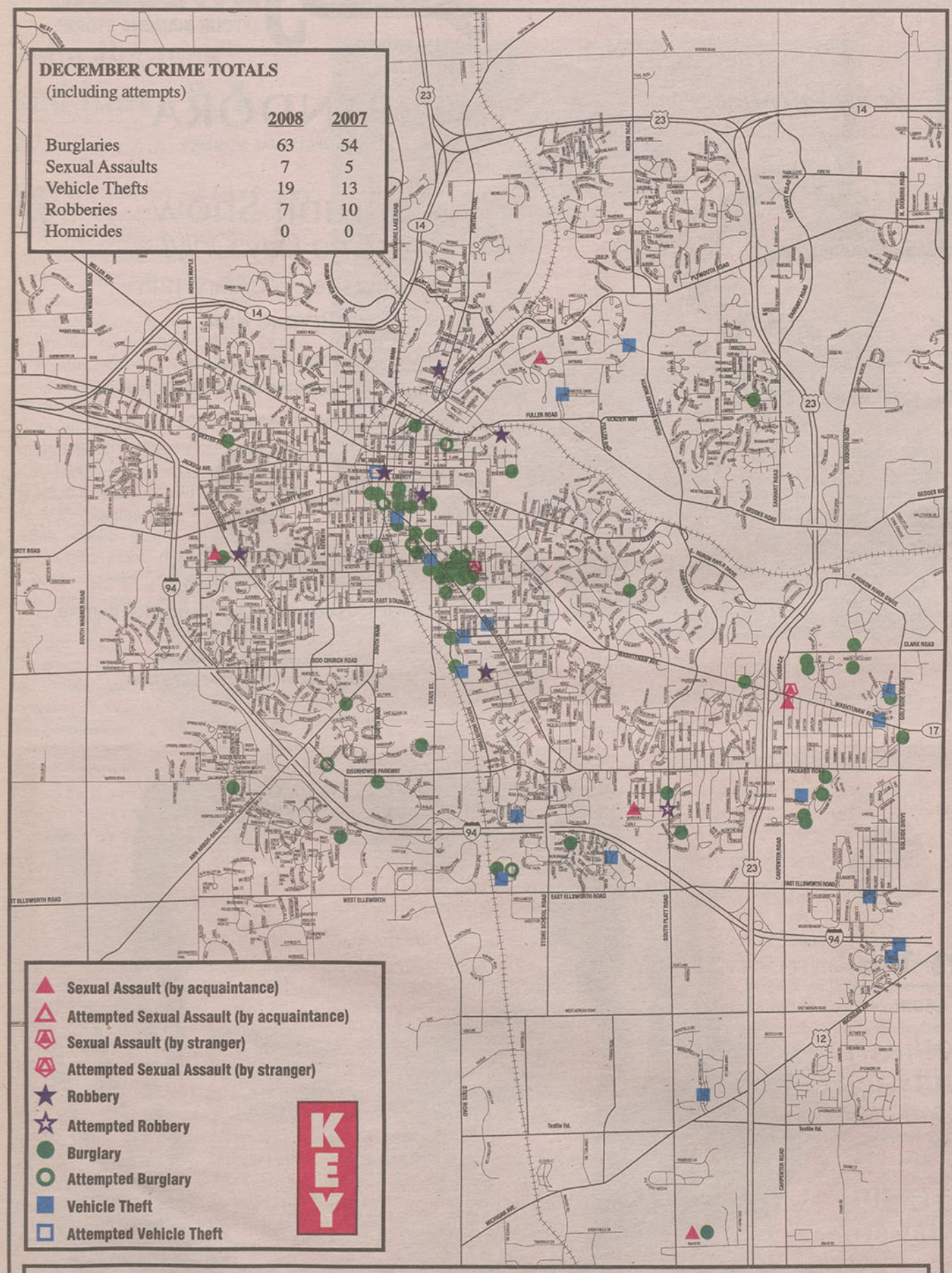
CrimeMap

DECEMBER CRIME TOTALS
(including attempts)

	2008	2007
Burglaries	63	54
Sexual Assaults	7	5
Vehicle Thefts	19	13
Robberies	7	10
Homicides	0	0



These are the major crimes and attempted crimes at Ann Arbor addresses reported by the Ann Arbor Police Department and the public safety departments of the U-M and Pittsfield Township in **December 2008**. Because locations are reported by block rather than by address, placement is approximate.

If you need police help in an emergency, call **911**. If you have information about a crime, call your police department's **anonymous 24-hour tip line: 996–3199 in Ann Arbor, (800) 863–1355 on campus, or 944–1238 in Pittsfield**. If you have questions about a crime shown here, call **Ann Arbor Neighborhood Watch (994–8775, Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.), the U-M Department of Public Safety (763–1131), or the Pittsfield Department of Public Safety (944–4911)**.

The box above shows the number of crimes reported in December 2008 and December 2007. Note that year earlier totals are not directly comparable, because Pittsfield's figures have been included only since January 2008.

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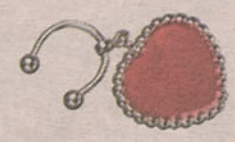

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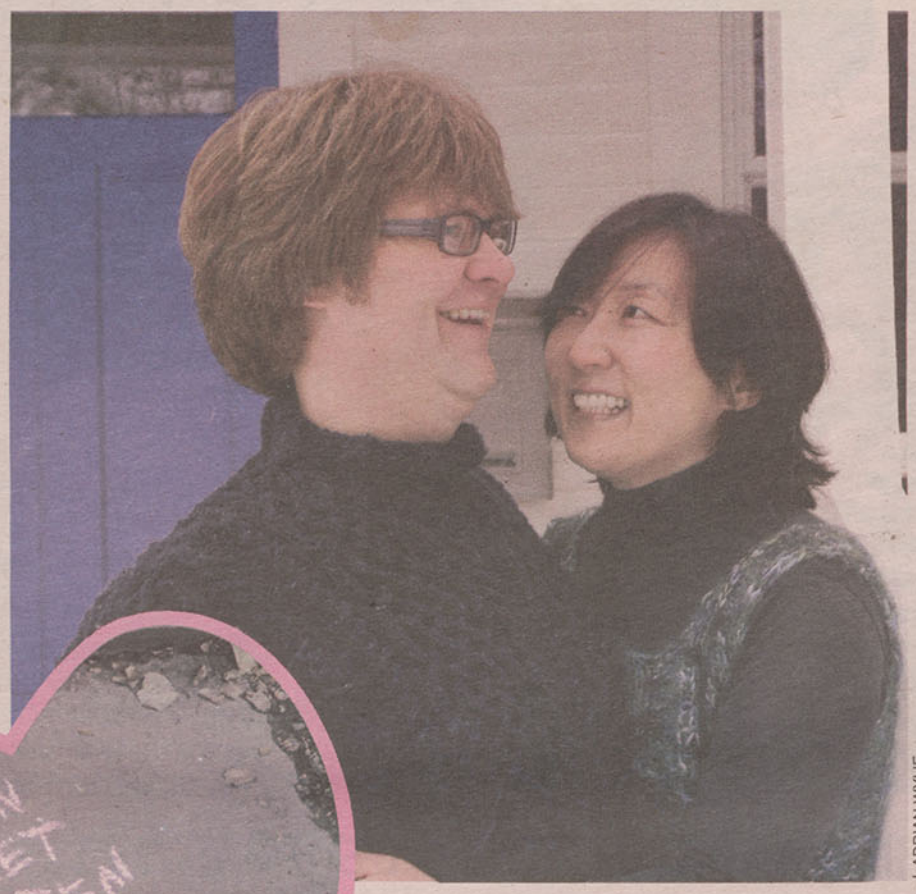
John Beranek and Karen Park

Chalk it up to love!

When Karen Park and John Beranek got engaged, friends scrawled the story of how they met on the sidewalk between their homes.

"John met Karen at Top of the Park," they announced in colored chalk. "She lives that way"—here an arrow pointed toward the former Bethel AME Church on Fourth Avenue—"And they are neighbors," another sidewalk square continued. "Weird, huh?"

Weird, but true: though Beranek was renovating an old house just four doors from Park's apartment in the renovated church, their paths crossed not on the street but at the Summer Festival's popular outdoor nightly event in 2004. She was with three gal pals, he with a bachelor friend. The groups eyed each other, and somehow their tables combined.



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

"John met Karen at Top of the Park," began the announcement his friends chalked on the pavement outside his house on Fourth Avenue. "She lives that way"—here an arrow pointed toward the former Bethel AME Church nearby—"And they are neighbors," another sidewalk square continued. "Weird, huh?"

"It wasn't like love at first sight," stresses Park, an anesthesiologist at St. Joe's. Beranek, an engineer between jobs, nods in agreement. But they were amused to discover they were neighbors, and they found they both liked to run and bike.

Soon afterward, Park saw Beranek working in his yard and stopped to chat. They started biking together, and things began to heat up when Beranek injured his knee biking and had to get around for a while on crutches. "Karen began calling me up [to ask] 'Do you need me to pick up something for you?'" Beranek recalls.

"I sort of nursed him back to health," agrees Park, who credits soup from Zingerman's with hurrying the healing.

To celebrate Beranek's fortieth birthday, the couple flew to Hawaii. There he proposed, and she accepted. They returned to find their story chalked on the sidewalk between their homes—prompting congratulations from neighbors up and down the block.

Park, forty-six, is small and trim. She came to Ann Arbor in 2002, moving from D.C. with a former boyfriend, and liked the city so much that she stayed on after they broke up. Beranek, forty-two, a sturdy-looking guy with light brown hair, came from Boston in 1990 to take a job at Ford.

Asked what attracted them to each other, Beranek looks embarrassed. "Her zest for life," he says. "We just like to have fun together." "He's just one of the most considerate people I've ever met," says Park. "I saw how he was with his friends."

Although both their careers require scientific savvy, Park says her spouse's field is a mystery to her. When she lived in the D.C. area, all her friends and dates seemed to be "lawyers, political people, academics. I didn't even know anyone who was an engineer!"

Beranek had done some fixing up of the 100-year-old home before they met. Together they planned a "green" addition and remodeling that took more than a year to complete but made the building so energy efficient that it is a candidate for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification—which would be a first in the state for a home remodeling project. Remodeling is famously stressful, but the newlyweds managed fine—partly because they were able to move into Park's apartment while the work was done.

It helped, too, that they had similar tastes in decorating. They knocked down walls to make the small house seem larger and created a modern, open kitchen. They kept the snow-white exterior but set it off with a brilliant blue front door that looks as if it jumped out of a child's picture book.

Sitting in their new living room, Park and Beranek laugh a lot, even when describing the difficulties they faced combining their well-established households. "We each had a complete set of dishes, silver," Park says. "It wasn't like junky stuff you have in college," Beranek puts in.

They also had different approaches to resolving the duplication. "I'm a throw-away-er," Park explains. "And John's more of a memorabilia keeper." But both were mature enough to know that the name of the game was compromise. Out went Karen's glasses and most of John's furniture. Dishes were combined.

Considering they were neighbors for almost a year without knowing it, Beranek and Park wonder whether they'd ever have gotten together if not for that night at Top of the Park. They're not sure they believe in destiny, but Beranek says they met at just "the right moment," when both were ready to settle down.

Park says something about him decided the matter for her. "I was in a totally different relationship" before, she says. "But I felt alone in the relationship. With John, I felt we were in together."

—Eve Silberman

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CRASH

Where accidents happen, and why

by James Leonard

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Roads covered with ice and snow are especially treacherous, as Pauline Lee found out when she slid through an intersection and totaled her Honda.

A bit after 3 on a January afternoon, Pauline Lee was driving south on Seventh past Pioneer High School. She had just picked up her grandson, Jackson, at his piano lesson. There was already an inch of snow on the ground and plenty in the air as she turned her silver 2003 Honda CR-V left onto Scio Church.

The small SUV slid through the intersection and jumped the curb on the far side. It flattened a street sign, scraped against a pine tree, ran right over a second tree, and came to a halt against a third.

The wrecker driver pronounced the Honda a total loss. The police blamed the crash on the weather.

That's what it's like on the streets of Ann Arbor—you're driving along, minding your own business, and suddenly, boom! You've been in a crash.

Roads covered with ice and snow are especially treacherous. "In a five-day shift, I take at least five [accident reports]," says Ann Arbor police officer Noel Scott. "Come winter, double it."

But crashes happen year round. And as I learned while riding with Scott and three other AAPD officers, there are some places where they happen over and over again.

Like Geddes west of US-23. "It's two lanes, and when the traffic backs up, people are always jumping out of line and getting hit," explains Scott, a twelve-year AAPD veteran. "And then there are the rear-enders. I took three separate accidents there in a couple of hours last week."

It's the same on Washtenaw, he says, "except there are more lanes and more accidents. It's bumper to bumper, people get distracted, and they hit. Or people drive out of Whole Foods and don't see somebody coming at them in the turn lane, and they hit. But, really, any heavily trafficked road during rush hour, there's going to be accidents."

The day I rode with Scott, he responded to the scene of an accident across from the Forest Avenue parking structure. A tiny teenager in tight jeans and a pink jacket stood in the street with a stunned look on her face. Her beat-up Nissan Maxima was wedged between a half-knocked-over tree and a Chevy minivan.

She spoke only Spanish, so Scott, who is bilingual, handled the interview.

"She's sixteen years old and she says she was on the phone with her husband and swerved to avoid something in the street and ran up on the grass," he explained afterward. "Then she panicked and threw it into reverse and ran over the tree. Then she panicked some more and threw it into drive and ran into the parked car. Then she stopped the car and turned it off. Good thing, too. She'd done enough damage."

> "The worst place for the highway intersections is I-94 and Jackson—the eastbound on-ramp," says AAPD officer Eric Freier. "And when it rains or that bridge freezes, it's even worse. We lost a firefighter there a couple of years ago."

Asked what kind of ticket he'd be writing, Scott replied, "Every kind. She's got no license. She's got no insurance. The car's not registered. She's damaged the tree. She's damaged the meter. And on top of that the car will have to be impounded, so she's going to have to pay for the towing plus the fee to get it out."

Another afternoon, I rode along with officer Renee Bondy when she responded to a three-car accident on Packard west of Platt. Bondy pulled up in heavy traffic to find an old white Caravan in the center turn lane facing west, a red Mustang up over the curb facing east, and a small black car turned sideways between them in the two eastbound lanes.

She parked her cruiser 100 yards west of the crash site and turned on her flashing lights.

"Usually it helps remind the drivers to slow down," Bondy explained. "But I've seen people get mesmerized by the flashing lights. I've seen *second* accidents caused by people staring at the first accident. Talk about not paying attention!"

It looked as though the car in the middle had sped out from a side street, bounced off the front of the Caravan waiting in the turn lane, and slammed into the front of the oncoming Mustang. As a tow truck pulled the 'Stang off the curb, we could see that its hood was crumpled all the way back to the engine block. The black car's front end was even worse, and its back end was pushed right into the back seat. Miraculously, no one was seriously injured.

The third and worst accident I saw came on a morning shift when I was riding with officer Jeff Robinson, a lanky Ann Arbor native with cuts on his nose and Band-Aids on his fingers. "I got hurt last Sunday chasing a guy into a house who turned around and slammed the door in my face," Robinson explained. "It was eight o'clock in the morning. He'd been in a known drug house, and I'd pulled him over and he had [arrest] warrants out, so he took off. He caught me right here"—he pointed to a line across the fingers of his left hand—"and the stitches came out too early."

Robinson, a trained bomb-dog handler, was driving a dark blue Chevy Tahoe with "Czar" printed on its back doors. Canine Czar, the AAPD's bomb dog, watched us through slots in a plastic partition between the seats.

Robinson had just been telling me what a good job traffic engineers did reconfiguring some dangerous turn lanes at State and Eisenhower when he took a call about an accident on Hill near Tappan. We found two cruisers and a command vehicle already at the scene, along with a Huron Valley ambulance and a fire truck.

A tractor-trailer was stopped parallel to the construction site at the U-M business school. In the opposite lane, a young man in a zipped sweatshirt and knit cap stood next to a small, light-colored car. And lying flat on his back with his head abutting the car's left front tire was the workman who'd been guiding the truck into the construction site—he'd been hit as the student pulled heedlessly out of a nearby parking structure. To judge by the look on the worker's face, he was in excruciating pain.

We watched as the medics put a collar brace on the man, carefully lifted him onto a stretcher, and loaded him into the ambulance. The kid in the knit cap looked as if he couldn't understand what had just occurred.

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CRASH

"Look, you can see he had his headlights on," Robinson pointed out, "and the guy was standing in the middle of the road with his hand up. So it's not like he couldn't see him. He's going to have to live with that for the rest of his life."

During my four ride-alongs, only one officer wasn't called to respond to an accident. Ironically, that was Eric Freier—a twelve-year veteran who joined the AAPD because he wanted to investigate accidents.

> "The second-worst place for crashes on highways is M-14 and Barton," Freier says. "No question. And there's one reason: it's the only on-and-off-ramp in the state—if not the entire Midwest—that has a stop sign at it."

A big, strapping man with close-cropped dark hair and a neat mustache, Freier grew up on a dairy farm in Gladwin and did his first four years in law enforcement with the sheriff's department there. "I came down because of my interests in doing crash scene investigating," he explained. "And I thought this job would give me plenty of experience.

"But actually," Freier continued as he eased his Ford Crown Victoria out of the City Hall parking lot early one cold morning, "this city is relatively safe, with not that many serious and fatal crashes. I'm frankly baffled; I was expecting more. Not that that's not a good thing—and not that there's not plenty of crashes anyway.

"The worst place for the highway intersections is I-94 and Jackson—the eastbound on-ramp," Freier offered as we rolled down Fifth Avenue. "Think about it: you're trying to get on while vehicles are coming at you out of a good ninety-degree turn on a poorly banked curve off of a bridge. That intersection's notorious for pile-ups. And when it rains or that bridge freezes, it's even worse. We lost a firefighter there a couple of years ago."

They did. On January 7, 2006, at 7:08 a.m., Amy Pennywitt, a thirty-four-year-old career officer with the Ann Arbor Fire Department, was hit from behind by a pickup truck spinning out of control on the icy bridge while she was walking toward an overturned vehicle to assist the passengers. Pennywitt died six days later, survived by her husband and parents.

"Last January [2008], when we had all that snow, we had four or five rollovers," Freier continued. "This is typically a combination of the driver's attitude with the conditions at hand. Some people, whatever the conditions, still go sixty, seventy miles per hour. I see it every day riding down from Brighton: I'm

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

"In a five-day shift, I take at least five [accident reports]," says AAPD officer Noel Scott. "Come winter, double it."

doing the limit in the right lane and people are passing me at eighty, eighty-five, ninety. And then add rain, snow, sleet, and ice into the mix, and you've got what happens at Jackson and I-94.

"The second-worst place for crashes on highways is M-14 and Barton," Freier added. "No question. And there's one reason: it's the only on-and-off-ramp in the state—if not the entire Midwest—that has a stop sign at it. You're coming down this long sweeping curve, and you're coming down too fast. The speed drops there from seventy to fifty-five but most people don't notice, especially if they aren't from the area, and they're doing eighty or more. And they *think* it's three lanes, and by the time they find out it's not—that it's an *off* lane—their reaction time is down to nothing and they go plowing through the guardrails. I've seen it thirty, forty times in the last twelve years."

According to Freier, three things cause crashes: speed, weather, and "driver attitude." "I attribute it to people significantly extending their commuting time," he says. "They want country living, and they think they can make it up on the roads. They give just so much time to the commute, and they don't add in any time when the weather's bad. And they don't adjust their attitude when the weather's bad, either. They're on their cell and fooling with their iPod and it's raining or it's snowing, and they don't slow down."

Freier's advice: "Leave one, one and a half car lengths between vehicles for every ten miles per hour." And, he adds, "If I were running the driving schools, I'd have every kid go through the precision driving course we go through. It would be an eye-opening experience. Any sixteen-, seventeen-, eighteen-year-old kid is going to get into a crash. You can bank on it. And this would help them know what to do when they hit a patch of black ice."

Asked what he considers the most dangerous highway intersections, Jeff Robinson lists them crisply and in the same order as Freier: "Jackson and 94—people don't handle the curve well, and we get pin-ins and rollovers there all the time. And Barton and M-14—that intersection is convenient for the people who live there, but it's dangerous and it should have been shut years ago."

Renee Bondy agrees about the most dangerous intersections, but she swaps the order: "Number one is M-14 and Barton Drive, eastbound lane—absolutely. People don't realize what's happening, and they slam right into the vehicles waiting to get on at the stop sign there.

"Number two is the westbound curve on 94 at Jackson," says the three-year AAPD veteran. "Even though the state police take most of the calls, we still get called there a lot, particularly in snowstorms when the bridge turns into a sheet of ice. That's the worst place to be in a snowstorm in the winter—and too many people do not slow down enough. They have four-wheel drive and they think everything's good and it doesn't matter and there's a pileup and they slide right into it."

Noel Scott makes the designation of the most dangerous intersections unanimous. He's seen overturned cars and flipped trailers at Barton and M-14, he says, and "the guardrails are always getting taken out." He says that while design is the problem at Barton, the accidents at Jackson and I-94 are "mostly weather related—rain, snow, and especially black ice. We had a motorcycle fatality there a few years ago. He got on at Ann Arbor–Saline, got up to speed, hit a patch of black ice on the bridge over Jackson, and couldn't stop. He was killed instantly—and I mean instantly. There was a piece here and a piece there and a piece over there.

"It's sad, but it was the driver's fault," Scott continues dispassionately. "He was driving too fast for the conditions. He should have been going thirty-five but he was doing seventy. It doesn't matter what the weather—the driver should adjust."

Pauline Lee's accident in the snow on Scio Church Road totaled her Honda, but it could have been far worse. She was wearing her seatbelt and her grandson was in his booster seat. Neither of them was hurt.

Lee, seventy-eight, had never been in an accident before—in fact, she said, she'd never so much as gotten a traffic ticket. Because the January crash was attributed to the weather, she wasn't ticketed this time, either.

She called her daughter-in-law, who was at the Dicken School science fair, and waited calmly for her to show up.

Jackson, age five and a half, was calm too. It was only after his mom arrived and strapped him securely into the backseat of her minivan that he turned to Lee and said, "Grandma, let's never do that again." ■

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COURTESY VALERIE LAKEN

Dream house

COURTESY VALERIE LAKEN

A novelist haunts the Old West Side.

by Mary Beth Lewis

Valerie Laken played a mean second base on the O Team—the Observer's co-rec softball team—a few years back. I usually played catcher, and I enjoyed chatting with her on the bench or over postgame beers. She had a house on the Old West Side a few blocks from mine, and to my surprise she was interested in details of murders in the neighborhood.

She was writing a book, she said—a novel inspired by a murder that took place in the house she and her husband owned.

Right, I thought then. Who in Ann Arbor *isn't* planning to write a book?

But Laken, who has an M.F.A. from the U-M, was already publishing short stories and winning prizes. She scored a two-book contract with Harper even before leaving town in 2006 to teach creative writing in Wisconsin.

Sure enough, in her newly released debut novel, *Dream House*, a shooting in an old Ann Arbor house anchors the action, past and present. There's not a dull moment as a quartet of main characters ricochet off one another for 350 pages. One killed a man for complex reasons and wants to be done paying the price. Another, a high school shop teacher, seems destined to clean up other people's messes. A young woman, a math teacher, is on a collision course with the psychic weight of nightmares she doesn't understand. Her husband, stuck in suspended animation from his college years, dodges "attempts at charity that could end in your own ruin."

I read the whole book in a weekend and haven't felt the same since. I'm wandering my neighborhood these days on the stage set of a hyperreal world. To enter Washtenaw Dairy is to retrace the steps of Laken's shell-shocked Walker Price, who after the shooting lays his gun on the counter and quietly tells the ice cream scoopers, "Call the police, please. I just shot my mother's boyfriend." Signs of local home-improvement projects suddenly suggest unfinished people, like protagonist Kate Kinzler, struggling with a lot more than drywall. I peer down side yards and imagine shadowy figures moving through vine-choked secret arbors unlike anything we conjure up in the Old West Side Garden Club.

In an audacious move, Laken maroons her characters on either side of the racial and socioeconomic divide between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. Her intense fantasy Ann Arbor picks up where Nancy Willard *(Sister Water)* and Charles Baxter *(Feast of Love)* left off. Like them, she haunts familiar houses and can freak you out with flashbacks of experiences you never had.

I recognized my Old West Side neighborhood in the first paragraph of *Dream House*. Laken describes a house "the gray-blue of dishwater" with "no dormers or bay windows or Victorian details—just that blunt, workman's box and triangle, fronted by a wooden porch that sagged toward the street." While I might not know the exact house she's describing, I can point to dozens that will pass for it. Ditto for the busybody middle-aged neighbor who "had gone so far on his health craze he looked as desperate and spent as a junkie in nylon tank shirt and short shorts."

I'm wandering my neighborhood these days on the stage set of a hyperreal world. To enter Washtenaw Dairy is to retrace the steps of Laken's Walker Price, who lays his gun on the counter and quietly tells the ice cream scoopers, "Call the police, please. I just shot my mother's boyfriend."

Despite such evocative descriptions, Laken says that her fiction isn't really about the world she lived in here: "I keep thinking that maybe when I'm old and gray I'll have earned the right to write a true story, but the fact is I have an unreliable memory and will probably have forgotten or embellished everything by then. I suppose this is why I'm drawn to fiction; I instinctively feel the need to embellish every story."

Which might explain an image I've been dwelling on since reading *Dream House*: when she lived nearby, I used to regularly see Laken walking her dog on the streets of the Old West Side. She didn't amble or look about. She was always striding energetically, ponytail swinging, chin up, eyes forward but barely focused. I realize now that she had already moved beyond observing our turn-of-the-century workers' cottages—her brain was busy embellishing the characters she was putting into those structures, deciding the lifelong effects they would have on each other.

"I fell in love with every member of the Price family as I wrote them," admits Laken, who reads from the book at Shaman Drum on February 5 (see Events, p. 30). "And it was comforting and enlightening to get beyond my narrow personal experience of the house and begin to experience it as others might have."

The biggest lingering question I have about the truthiness of *Dream House* is hardly central to the plot: I keep wondering whether a group of teachers at nearby "Frontier High School" really do have a secret party every August when they break into the school, get smashed, and indulge in a bacchanal around the varsity pool.

Coyly, Laken won't say. ■

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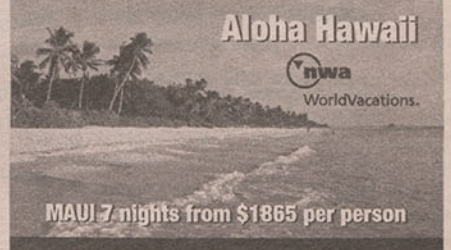

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ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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February Events

We want to know about your event!

Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

- **By mail:** John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.
- **By fax:** 769–3375.
- **By e-mail:** hinch@aaobserver.com
- **After-hours drop box:** right side of the Observer's front door facing Catherine.

What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:

All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to arborweb).

arborweb:

The entire Observer events calendar for the month is available at **arborweb: www.arborweb.com.** This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on arborweb.

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

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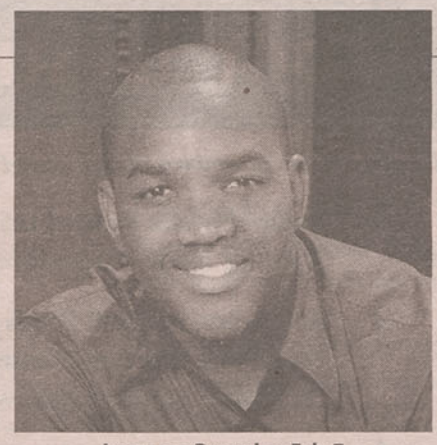
***Rosencrantz and Guildenstern*, Feb. 1 & more**



Lawrence Brownlee, Feb. 7

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GALLERIES

31 **Exhibit Openings** — *Katie Whitney*

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An hour away — *Keith Taylor*

27 **Mark Olson and Gary Louris**
Jayhawk duet — *Erick Trickey*

29 **AXIS Coffeehouse**
Poems and games at Malletts Creek — *Sandor Slomovits*

40 **Charlie Louvin**
Rediscovered — *James M. Manheim*

45 **University Symphony Orchestra**
Jerry Blackstone rings Rachmaninoff's *Bells* — *James Leonard*

48 **Vinx**
African American roots music — *James M. Manheim*

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53 **Nightspots Schedule** — *John Hinchey*

53 **Nightspots Review**
Lady Sunshine and the X Band — *Stephanie Kadel-Taras*

***Small Dances about Big Ideas*, Feb. 11**

CHRIS RANDLE

Johnny O'Neal, Feb. 21

1 SUNDAY

★**"A2Sunday Runners": Two Dogs Running.** *Every Sun.* All invited to join informal runs of 5–7 miles along various scenic routes. *8:30 a.m., meet at Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, Kerrytown. Free. 657–0214.*

★**Winter Democratic Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Sat., Sun., & Wed.* 20-mile ride (or longer) at a pace and to a destination chosen by the assembled riders. *Note:* Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, change for a phone call, and snacks. *10 a.m. & 1 p.m. (Sat. & Sun) & 11 a.m. (Wed.), meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 904–6431 (Sat. rides), 761–6253 (Sun. morning), 994–5908 (Sun. afternoon & Wed.).*

★**Meditation: Tsogyelgar Dharma Center.** *Every Sun.* Traktung Yeshe Dorje leads a silent sitting, followed at 11 a.m. by Tantric meditation. *10 a.m., Tsogyelgar Dharma Center, 7145 W. Liberty. Free. 663–3842.*

★**Silent Vipassana Meditation: Deep Spring Center for Meditation and Spiritual Inquiry.** *Every Sun.* Meditators of all levels invited for an hour of silent meditation focusing on the breath. While the practice stems from the earliest and purest Buddhist teachings, this form of meditation requires no religious beliefs. Followed by a 30-minute dharma discussion. *10–11:30 a.m., Deep Spring Center, 3003 Washtenaw, suite 2 (entrance on Glenwood, next to Arby's). Free, but donations accepted. 477–5848.*

★**Introductory Dharma Talk: Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** *Every Sun. except Feb. 22.* Talks by **Gehlek Rimpoche,** an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of Gehlek's senior students. *10–11 a.m., Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. (just south of Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.). Free, but donations accepted. 994–3387.*

★**"Ice Carving Extravaganza": Main Street Area Association.** *Jan. 30–Feb. 1.* Members of the U-M ice carving team chip huge blocks of ice on the sidewalks into elaborate twinkling sculptures, which remain on display as long as the weather holds. *10 a.m.–6 p.m., Main Street area. Free. 668–7112.*

★**Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship.** *Feb. 1 & 15.* Today: AAUF member Dieter Vincent discusses Eric Weiner's ***Geography of Bliss.*** Also this month: AAUF member Doug Tracy discusses Muhammad Yunus's ***Creating a World Without Poverty*** (Feb. 15). *10 a.m., Burns Park Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 994–4473.*

★**Ultimate Frisbee: H.A.C. Ultimate.** *Every Sun.* All invited to a very relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport. *Note:* Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. *10:15 a.m., Mitchell Field. Free. 846–9418.*

★**Meditation: Karma Thegsum Choling.** *Every Sun.* All invited to join a chanting meditation. *11 a.m.–noon (Feb. 1, 15, & 22) & 10–11:30 a.m. (Feb. 8), KTC, 614 Miner (off Miller). Free. 761–7495, 678–7549.*

★**First Singles: First Presbyterian Church.** *Every Sun.* A weekly program open to all single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Today: a welcoming of new members and general discussion. Also this month: First Singles member Marcy Toon discusses Tracy Kidder's memoir of his experiences as a communications officer during the Vietnam War, ***My Detachment*** (Feb. 8), First Presbyterian member Polly Pan leads a discussion of an audiotaped lecture on **"Paul, the Hero of Acts"** (Feb. 15) from the Teaching Company series *Great Figures in the New Testament,* and First Presbyterian member Norm Samuelson reviews Richard Thaler & Cass Sunstein's ***Nudge: Improving Decisions about Health, Wealth, and Happiness*** (Feb. 22). Also, members meet for breakfast every Saturday at 10 a.m. at Cafe Marie in the Courtyard Shops (1759 Plymouth Rd.). *11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466, ext. 43.*

★**Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Sunday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. *12:30–3:30 p.m., Hillside Terrace, 1939 Jackson. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Children's Storytime: Liberty Borders.** *Every Sun.* Borders staff read stories for kids. *1 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

"Super Science Shows": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Family Day. *Every Sat. & Sun.* Museum staff give family-friendly science demos. *1 & 3 p.m., Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. $8 (members & infants free) regular museum admission. 995–5439.*

Magic: The Gathering Tournament: Get Your Game On. *Every Sun.–Thurs.* All invited to compete in a tournament using the standard constructed (Sun., Mon., & Thurs.), Elder Dragon Highlander (Tues.), and Legacy constructed (Wed.) editions of this popular collectible card game. Also, a booster draft tournament ($15 includes cards) at 6 p.m. on Fridays, a sealed deck tournament ($25 includes cards) at 1 p.m. on Saturdays, and a **Conflux release party** ($34.99 includes cards) at midnight on Feb. 6. Bring your own cards. *1 p.m. (Sun.), 5 p.m. (Mon.), & 6 p.m. (Tues.–Thurs.), Get Your Game On, 709 Packard. $5 (Mon., $2 entry fee & $2 per match). 786–3746.*

Contact Improv. *Every Sun.* All invited to try this interactive, freeform dance style that involves contact with one or more partners. It can involve improvisational lifts and other experimentations with gravity. You might find yourself upside down, so dress appropriately for easy movement. No partner required; beginners welcome. (The 1st Sunday of each month begins with an hour of formal instruction.) Followed by discussion and socializing. *1–3 p.m., The Mind Body Spirit Academe, 1785 W. Stadium. $5–$10 sliding scale based on ability to pay. 604–4416.*

★**Ann Arbor Go Club.** *Every Sun. & Thurs.* Players of all skill levels invited to play what's regarded as the world's most difficult board game. No partner necessary. Boards and stones provided. *1–6 p.m. (Sun.) & 7 p.m.–midnight (Thurs.), Espresso Royale, 322 S. State. Free. 417–5547.*

★**"Living with Chronic Pain": Sun Moon Yoga.** Talk by registered nurse Janine Polley. *1:30 p.m., Sun Moon Yoga, 404 W. Huron. Free. 929–0274.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Wisconsin. *2 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

★**Dinosaur Tours: U-M Exhibit Museum.** *Every Sat. & Sun.* 30-minute docent-led tour of the museum's dinosaur exhibits. *2 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free, but limited to the first 15 people to sign up for each tour. 764–0478.*

★**"Kerry Tales: Pies and Pancakes with Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and stories with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as "Mother Goose." *2 p.m., Hollander's, 407 N. Fifth Ave. (Kerrytown). Free. 769–3115.*

★**Cohousing Talks: Sunward Cohousing.** *Every Sun.* Talks by Sunward Cohousing founder Nick Meima. Followed by a tour of the 3 Ann Arbor cohousing communities. Today: **"Ways to Overcome the Lone-**

February 2009 Event *Highlights*
Ann Arbor District Library

All events will take place in the Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room, unless otherwise noted.

Sunday 3:00 - 4:30 pm — **1** Music specialist **Richard LeSueur** discusses **Lawrence Brownlee: A Rising Tenor** • DOWNTOWN 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Monday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **2** **Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads Lecture & Discussion: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Astronomy (But Were Afraid to Ask)** with **UM Professor Timothy McKay**

Wednesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **4** **Ballroom Dancing: The Latest Craze** • Get your feet moving with dance expert **Natalia Vail**

Saturday 2:00 - 3:00 pm — **7** **Capoeira Mandinga Michigan** • Afro-Brazilian dance and martial arts! • GRADE K - ADULT

Sunday 2:00 - 3:00 pm — **8** **Soaring Stories** with the **Ann Arbor Civic Ballet** and storyteller **Laura Pershin Raynor** • PRESCHOOL - GRADE 5

Sunday 2:00 - 3:30 pm — **8** **The Wit of Benjamin Britten** • UM Professor **Robert Swedberg** presents a preview of the upcoming UM production of Britten's opera ***Albert Herring*** • PITTSFIELD BRANCH

Wednesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **11** **Celebrate Black History Month** • **Art of Southwestern Nigeria–Faces and Fragments: The Moral Image in Yoruba Culture** with **UM Asst. Professor David Doris**

Thursday 6:30 - 8:30 pm — **12** **Film & Discussion** • ***Refusing To Be Enemies: The Zeitouna Story*** • NOT RATED • GRADE 9 - ADULT

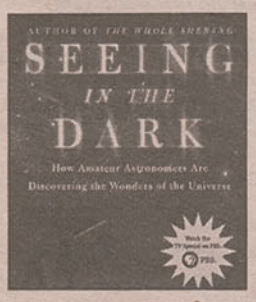
Monday 7:00 - 8:00 pm — **16** **Celebrate Black History Month** • **The Golden Age of Jazz** with Detroit-based jazz group **Giant Steps** featuring **Allan Barnes**

Wednesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **18** **World Travel 101: Budget Travel** presented by **Hostelling International-USA Michigan Council**

Thursday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **19** **Oscar Night!** • Movie expert **John Carlos Cantú** leads a discussion about the nominees and movie trivia
GRADE 6 - ADULT

Friday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **20** **The Art of Tribal Tattoo** with **Leo Zulueta**, owner of Spiral Tattoo
GRADE 9 - ADULT

Saturday 2:00 - 3:00 pm — **21** **Celebrate Black History Month** • Singer/storyteller **Tiana Marquez** presents the story of the **Children's Crusade**
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 5



Tuesday 6:00 - 8:30 pm — **24** **LittleBigPlanet Tournament** • Gaming @ AADL! Prizes will be awarded to the top three finalists • GRADES 6 - 12

Wednesday 7:00 - 8:00 pm — **25** **The Art of Gourmet Pizza Making** with **Cottage Inn**
GRADE 6 - ADULT

Wednesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **25** **Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads Book Discussion:** ***Seeing In The Dark*** • PITTSFIELD BRANCH • GRADE 9 - ADULT

Thursday 7:00 - 8:00 pm — **26** **Cheese Tasting** with **Morgan & York**
MALLETTS CREEK BRANCH • GRADE 6 - ADULT

Thursday 7:00 - 8:30 pm — **26** **Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads Lecture & Discussion: UFOs Over Michigan?** A discussion with UFO expert **William J. Konkolesky** of Michigan Mutual UFO Network, Inc.

For more information, call 327.4200 or visit our website at aadl.org

liness Factor." Also this month: **"Sustainable Neighborhoods"** (Feb. 8), **"Creating a 'Village'"** (Feb. 15), and **"Parenting: It Takes a Village"** (Feb. 22). *2 p.m., Sunward Cohousing, 424 Little Lake Dr. Free. Preregistration required. 663–5516.*

"Arcs in Time": U-M Dance Company. *Jan. 29–Feb. 1.* This U-M dance-student company presents a program highlighted by a revival of *Impact*, a major work by **Laura Dean,** a celebrated postmodern choreographer whose works are known for their luminously spare geometric elegance. It is restaged by U-M dance professor **Amy Chevasse,** who danced in the 1985 premiere of *Impact*, which the *New York Times* praised as "dazzlingly intricate in its integration of patterns and original movement," and the U-M Percussion Ensemble performs *Sextet*, the Steve Reich score written for this work. Also, new works by U-M dance professors **Melissa Beck-Matjias, Bill DeYoung, Peter Sparling,** and **Robin Wilson.** Beck-Matjias's *Signifying Nothing* is set to a live performance by her husband, Christian Matjias, of Schubert's Impromptu no. 1 in C Minor, and Sparling's *Door to the River* is a group work set against a video backdrop of water surging over Barton Dam during different seasons. A juxtaposition of human movement and the powerful forces of nature held in check by man-made restraints, the dance uses the sounds of the water as its musical score. Wilson's *Hokey Pokey Women and Honky Tonk Men*, inspired by her work with the Urban Bush Women and Dianne McIntyre, explores shifting emotional terrains through a blend of dance improvisation, wordless vocalization, and live music. DeYoung's *Thinking Twice* is a work for 11 dancers inspired by the life and writings of the modernist German composer Stefan Wolpe, and the score features 3 Wolpe compositions. *2 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $18 & $24 (students, $9) in advance at the Michigan League Box Office and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538.*

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead": Performance Network Professional Season. *Every Thurs.–Sun., Jan. 8–Feb. 8.* John Seibert directs Tom Stoppard's black comedy inspired by Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. It concerns 2 minor characters from the play, old school chums of the prince of Denmark, and depicts them as hapless pawns, vainly trying to make sense of their existence while impersonal political forces inexorably shape their fate. Stars Loren Bass & Malcolm Tulip. The Jan. 31 performance is a benefit for 826michigan, a nonprofit devoted to fostering literacy and excellence in writing for kids ages 6–18. *2 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $27 & $29 (Thurs.), $32 & $34 (Fri. & Sun.), $25 & $27 (Sat. matinee), $39 & $41 (Sat. eve.) available in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. $3 discounts available for seniors age 60 & over. $10 student discounts available in advance, half-price student tickets at the door only. For reservations, call 663–0681; to charge by phone, call 663–0696.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. *Every Wed.–Sun., Jan. 22–Mar. 21.* Guy Sanville directs Tennessee Williams's Pulitzer Prize-winning tragedy about Blanche DuBois, an emotionally fragile southern belle who moves into a squalid New Orleans tenement with her sister and brutish brother-in-law. One of Williams's most famous plays, *Streetcar* offers a definitive treatment of one of his most obsessive themes—the psychological destruction of a self-deluded central character full of aristocratic pretensions and unable to cope with the brute realities of life. Stars Michelle Mountain, Qarie Marshall, and Charlyn Swarthout. *2 p.m., Purple Rose, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Jan. 22–29 previews: $20 (Wed. & Thurs.) & $25 (Fri.–Sun.). After Jan. 29: Tickets $25 (Sun. eves., Wed. & Thurs.), $33 (Sat. & Sun. matinees), & $38 (Fri. & Sat. eves.) in advance and at the door. 433–7673.*

★Ultimate Frisbee: Ann Arbor Ultimate. *Every Sun. (tentatively).* All invited to join a pickup game of this spirited team sport. *Note:* Overly aggressive players are politely asked to leave. *3 p.m., Mitchell Field, Fuller Rd. Free. info@a2ultimate.org.*

★"Lawrence Brownlee: A Rising Tenor": Ann Arbor District Library. Ann Arbor District Library music specialist Richard LeSueur discusses (with musical examples) this tenor who performs at Hill Auditorium on February 7 (see listing). *3–4:30 p.m., AADL meeting room (4th floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

Gemini: Michigan Friends Center. The popular Ann Arbor acoustic duo of twin brothers Sandor and Laszlo Slomovits performs original songs and traditional music from around the globe in a benefit for the Friends Center. Preceded at 1:30 p.m. by a reception with mulled cider and treats. *3–4 p.m., Michigan Friends Center, 7448 Clarks Lake Rd. (off Waterloo Rd. west of M-52), Chelsea. Tickets $8 (family, $25) in advance only. 475–1892.*

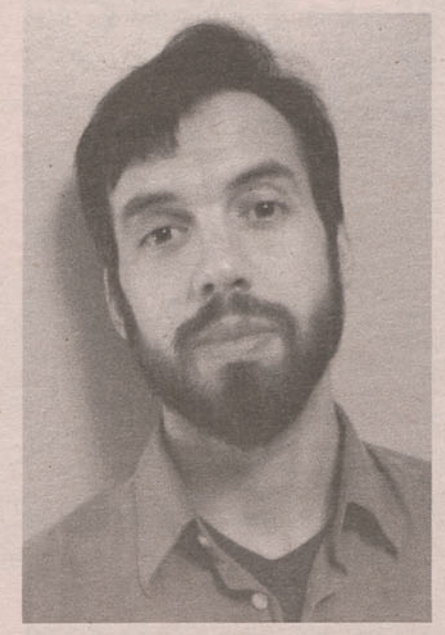
Children's Puppet Shows: Dreamland Theater. *Every Sun.* The Dreamland Puppet Troupe presents several marionette, rod, and shadow puppet shows for kids. *3:30 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. $5 (kids age 3 & under, free). 657–2337.*

★"Mashiko Village Pottery": Yourist Studio Gallery. Screening of a 1937 B&W documentary about

nonfiction

Luke Bergmann

An hour away



I like to think that I am more comfortable in Detroit than most Ann Arborites. I know my way around the city and make a point of visiting often. Although I exercise caution occasionally, I haven't felt much fear in the city for decades. Still, there are times when I find myself at unknown intersections surrounded by burned and boarded-up buildings, where sullen young men stare into my car with a monumental indifference, that I realize there are lives here—less than an hour from home—that seem as foreign from my own suddenly effete life as any on the planet.

Luke Bergmann is a former Ann Arborite who has moved into the world of some of those young men, and he has written brilliantly and passionately about it in *Getting Ghost: Two Young Lives and the Struggle for the Soul of an American City.* Although Bergmann's book grows out of his Ph.D. dissertation, there is little of the specialist's-monograph-published-for-tenure-consideration in it. Bergmann does supply some of the historical and theoretical context that might explain something of the environment for the young men he writes about, but most of his book—and by far the most interesting part for those of us without academic concerns—is his vivid and meticulous documentary portrait of two young men: Dude, on the East Side, and Rodney, who lives and works west of Woodward. These two adolescent drug dealers allowed Bergmann remarkable access to their lives, bringing him into their homes, telling him their fears and desires, introducing him to their families and neighborhoods. Even though they might have started out as articulate informants for an interested anthropologist, they clearly became his friends. While never condoning what they do to survive in their city and doing what he can to help them imagine different lives (like tutoring them for the GED exam), Bergmann clearly doesn't judge them. Without romanticizing their difficult lives in the least, Bergmann finds qualities of loyalty, integrity, dependability, and perseverance in these young men that are well beyond their mainstream representations in the dominant culture. And he convinces us of the joy they are often able to find in otherwise very grim circumstances.

But these lives are never easy. Bergmann defines his title this way: "As young drug dealers strive to find ways toward 'legal' jobs and straight lives, getting ghost is a rich metaphor—for leaving a scene, for quitting the trade, and for their own mortality." In that early definition, he prepares us for the hopes and tragedies we find in the narrative that follows. The reader moves with this author as he discovers these two lives in Detroit, and at the end it is impossible not to be moved as deeply by the young men who have become his friends.

Luke Bergmann, who now lives on the East Side of Detroit, returns to Ann Arbor to read from *Getting Ghost* at Shaman Drum Bookshop on Tuesday, February 3.

—Keith Taylor

Shoji Hamada, the renowned Japanese ceramist who revitalized pottery making in the Japanese village of Mashiko, where ceramic art had flourished in ancient times. *4 p.m., Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway. Free. 662–4914.*

7th Annual "Wine, Women, & Song": Kerrytown Concert House. *Jan. 30 & 31 and Feb. 1.* An elegant evening of jazz, classical, and cabaret songs showcasing noted local women singers. Accompanied by pianist Jerry DePuit. Singers include Sue Booth, Carolyn Burnstein, Lisa Gray, Shelley MacMillan, Elizabeth Major, Deanna Relyea, Susan Shipman, Monica Swartout-Bebow, and Wendy Bloom. Wine is served. *4 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15, $20, & $30 per night. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

★Ann Arbor Morris Dancers. *Every Sun.* All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance based on the 15th-century Spanish *moresca.* Wear athletic shoes. *6–8 p.m., Gretchen's House barn, 1580 Dhu Varren Rd. Free. 747–8138.*

"A Circle of Drums": Drumwomyn. *Every Sun.* All women invited to gather for a drumming session. Bring your own drum. *7–8:30 p.m., WRAP Resource Center, 325 Braun Ct. $10. 913–9670.*

★University Symphony Orchestra: U-M School of Music. Kenneth Kiesler conducts this music-student orchestra in Shostakovich's Symphony no. 5, which was composed in reaction to official Communist criticism of his opera *The Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District,* a work of sharp parody and strong emotion. The symphony satisfied the party with its formal simplicity but also gratified music lovers with its originality and integrity. The program also includes a concerto TBA. *7:30 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

U-M Ballroom Dancers. *Every Sun.* Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 7 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. *8–10 p.m., Michigan League Ballroom (Feb. 1) and Michigan Union Pendleton Room (Feb. 8) & Ballroom (Feb. 15 & 22). $3. 763–6984.*

"Fire and Ice": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. *Jan. 30–Feb. 2 (different locations).* Evening tango dance parties with recorded music spun by a DJ. Preceded by tango workshops. Festival passes ($130; students, $65) include admission to daily predance workshops. *8 p.m.–1 a.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. $15 (students, $10). umich.edu/~umtango.*

2 MONDAY

★Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus. *Every Mon.* All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. David Perample directs. *10–11:30 a.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free to visitors ($100 per semester membership dues for those who join). 213–3770, 769–0784.*

★Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army. *Every Mon.* Drop-in social group for seniors age 55 & older. Every meeting includes a speaker, word game, craft, or activity. Also, **Bible study** and **chair exercises.** Followed by lunch (bring a bag lunch) and socializing. *10 a.m.–noon, Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free. 668–8353.*

★"Playgroups for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Mon.* Playgroup for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. *Note:* Playgroups are also offered at the Malletts Creek (Tues., 10–11 a.m., & Thurs., 6:30–7:30 p.m.), Pittsfield (Tues., 6:30–7:30 p.m.), and Traverwood (Fri., 10:30–11:30 a.m.) branches. *10:30–11:30 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301 (main library), 327–4200 (branches).*

★Knitting and Sewing Group: Ann Arbor Senior Center. All seniors age 55 & older invited. *11 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

19

THE FRANKEL CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES'
19th ANNUAL BELIN LECTURE
with Fred Lazin
We Are Not One: American Jews, Israel, and the Struggle for Soviet Jewry.

Thursday, March 5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
Forum Hall, Palmer Commons, University of Michigan
100 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Free & open to the general public. Call 763-9047 or visit www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic for more information

THIS MONTH! MICHIGAN THEATER

LIVE NATION presents
THE PRETENDERS
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
AMERICAN BANG
FEBRUARY 9

NOT JUST FOR KIDS
FAMILY-FRIENDLY PROFESSIONAL THEATER
JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH
A magical one-hour production based on Roald Dahl's beloved book.

SUNDAY, FEB. 15 1:30 PM
TOYOTA Comerica Potbelly me.dia THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

LIVE NATION presents
AN ACOUSTIC EVENING WITH
LYLE LOVETT AND JOHN HIATT
FEBRUARY 20

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130th Season 2008 09 UMS

February Events

Lawrence Brownlee tenor | Martin Katz piano

SAT, FEB 7 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

Lawrence Brownlee is "without doubt, the most impressive addition to the American tenor roster in many years." (*San Francisco Chronicle*) In 2006, Brownlee was awarded both the Richard Tucker Award and the Marian Anderson Award, two of the biggest prizes for rising singers. He makes his UMS recital debut in a program that includes opera arias and songs, as well as a cantata by John Carter comprised of settings of Black spirituals.

PROGRAM

Mozart	Concert Aria: *Misero, o sogno, o son desto?* K. 431 (1783)
Duparc	Chanson triste (1868)
Rossini	"Languir per una bella" from *L'Italiana in Algeri* (1813)
Liszt	Three Petrarch Sonnets, S. 270 (1844-45, 1854)
Donizetti	"Ah, mes amis, quel jour de fête" from *La Fille du Regiment* (1840)
Carter	Cantata (1964)

Media Partner **WGTE 91.3 FM, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers,** and **Michigan Chronicle/Front Page.**

Sweet Honey In The Rock® | SHE ROCKS!

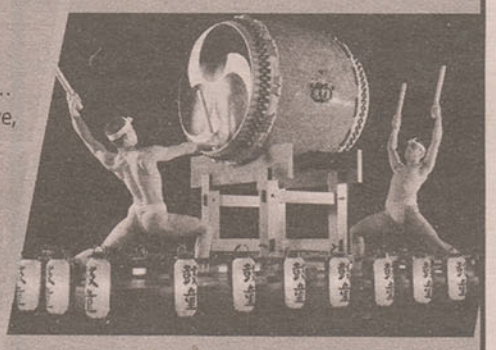
THU, FEB 12 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

The repertoire of this African American *a cappella* ensemble is steeped in the sacred music of the Black church, the clarion calls of the Civil Rights movement, and songs of the struggle for justice everywhere. Rooted in a deeply held commitment to create music out of the rich textures of African American legacy and traditions, Sweet Honey In The Rock possesses a stunning vocal prowess that captures the complex sounds of Blues, spirituals, traditional gospel hymns, rap, reggae, African chants, hip-hop, ancient lullabies, and jazz improvisation. *Sign language interpreted.*

Media Partner **WEMU 89.1 FM, Between the Lines, Ann Arbor's 107one, Michigan Chronicle/Front Page,** and **Metro Times.**

Kodo Drummers of Japan

FRI, FEB 13 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium



"Superlatives don't really exist to convey the primal power and bravura beauty of Kodo… the devil of it is the combination of the discipline of a surgeon's scalpel with the primitive, muscular endurance of a cavalry charge..." (*Chicago Tribune*) With its "One Earth" tour, Kodo brings the sound of the taiko drum to people around the globe, transcending barriers of language and custom and reminding all of our membership in that much larger community, the world. "In this age of exploding populations and lightning-fast communication, it is more important than ever that these diverse cultures learn to recognize and accept each other so that all may share our increasingly shrinking planet in harmony," says Kodo's primary philosophy. First appearance since 2005!

The 08/09 Family Series is sponsored by **Toyota.**
Media Sponsor **Ann Arbor's 107one.**

Batsheva Dance Company

Ohad Naharin artistic director
SAT, FEB 14 | 8 PM
SUN, FEB 15 | 4 PM [NOTE START TIME]
Power Center

Since its founding in 1964 by Martha Graham and Baroness Batsheva de Rothschild, Batsheva Dance Company has become one of the most influential cultural role models in Israel, internationally renowned for pushing the boundaries of cutting-edge dance with intense energy, rich sensuality, and a culturally diverse dance language.

The company presents two different full-length programs. *Three* (Saturday, contains nudity) is an expansive work of astounding physical exploits and unexpected humor performed to music ranging from Bach's Goldberg Variations to Brian Eno and the Beach Boys. *Deca Dance* (Sunday) celebrates 10 years of Naharin's work with Batsheva, providing the opportunity to look at the choreographer's repertoire over time, from its most extravagant to its most intimate and heartrending.

The Saturday performance is co-sponsored by **Gloria and Jerry Abrams** and **Prue and Ami Rosenthal.**
The Sunday performance is sponsored by **The Herbert and Junia Doan Foundation.**
Funded in part by the **National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts.**
Media Sponsors **Metro Times, Between the Lines, Michigan Radio 91.7 FM,** and **Detroit Jewish News.**

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U-M Club of Ann Arbor. *Every Mon.* Weekly lunchtime talks by U-M coaches. Today: water polo coach Matt Anderson. Also this month: baseball coach Rich Maloney and women's track coach James Henry (Feb. 9), women's rowing coach Mark Rothstein (Feb. 16), and a coach TBA (Feb. 23). *11:30 a.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. $14 (members, $9.25; seniors, $8.75). 663–7420.*

Duplicate Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon.* All seniors age 55 & older invited to play this popular bridge format. No partner required. *12:30–3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $1. 769–5911.*

★**Mah-Jongg: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Mon & Tues.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play this popular tile game. *1–2:30 p.m. (Mon.) & 9:30–11:30 a.m. (Tues.), Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Bridge: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** *Every Mon. & Fri.* All seniors invited to play bridge. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**ESL Conversation Group: Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Mon. & Fri.* All levels of English speakers invited for conversation. *1–2:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch (Mon.), 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., & AADL Malletts Creek Branch (Fri.), 3090 E. Eisenhower between Stone School & Packard. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Conversations Between Religion, Philosophy, and Science in Islamic Civilization": U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies.** Talk by Bowdoin College Islamic studies professor Robert Morrison. *3–4 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0530.*

Wine & Beer Sessions: Cranbrook Whole Foods Market. *Feb. 2, 5, 9, 12, 19, & 26.* Whole Foods staff discuss wine, beer, and cheese. Also, tastings and small plates of food. Today's topic: **"Fruit Beers."** Also this month: **"South American Wines"** (Feb. 5), **"Wines That Love Chocolate"** (Feb. 9), **"Dessert Wines"** (Feb. 12), **"Cotes du Rhone"** (Feb. 19), and **"Alsatian Wines"** (Feb. 26). *6 p.m. (Mon.) & 5–7 p.m. (Thurs.), Whole Foods Wine Bar, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., Cranbrook Village shopping center. $10 (Mon.) & $17 (Thurs.). 997–7507.*

"A Course in Miracles": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. *Every Mon.* All invited to join a group reading and discussion of this popular Foundation for Inner Peace metaphysical book. *6:45–8:45 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Donation. 327–0270.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Out Loud Chorus.** *Every Mon.* Beginning to advanced singers invited to join this chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their friends. *7–9:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium. Free. 973–6084.*

★**"Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Astronomy . . . but Were Afraid to Ask": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by U-M physics professor Timothy McKay. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**Shamanic Journeys.** *Every Mon.* Using special postures, participants enter a meditative state to the beat of a shaman's drum and discuss their experiences afterward. *7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 320–9559.*

★**Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society.** All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by local flutist Tim Tikker. Music provided; bring your own music stand. *7:30–9:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors ($30 annual dues). 213–3172.*

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Every Mon.* Instruction in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. Soft-soled shoes recommended. Refreshments. *7:30–9:30 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver Rd. (off Nixon Rd.). $5. 769–1052, 425–0241.*

Dream Group. *Every Mon.* All invited to join veteran local social worker Rebecca Mullen to discuss their dreams from Jungian, Buddhist, and other spiritual perspectives. *7:30 p.m., 215 N. Seventh St. Donation. 662–5925.*

★**World Percussion Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** This music-student ensemble is joined by U-M grad Anthony DiSanza, a University of Wisconsin music professor, for performances of works by DiSanza and others. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Mon.* Local high school English teacher Geoff Cost throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Prizes. *8:30–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $5 team fee. 665–2968.*

"Fire and Ice": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. See 1 Sunday. *9:15 p.m.–midnight, Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94).*

country-folk

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Mark Olson and Gary Louris

Jayhawk duet

It's August 1994 and I'm waiting for Johnny Cash to go on stage at Detroit's State Theater when the opening act's high-flying harmonies catch my ear. The Jayhawks, one of the great bands of the alternative country movement of the nineties, are playing some of their 1992 album *Hollywood Town Hall* and some not-yet-released songs, mixing vocal-duo innocence with country-folk twang.

Then it's July 1996 and I'm commuting from Ann Arbor to Detroit and listening to the Jayhawks' newest album, *Tomorrow the Green Grass*. Mark Olson, the lead vocalist, is singing about a woman who got away: "Left running, you said you were flying/Left running, you said you were cold/Any statue you could name/Like the ones that I fell for." Each line is elliptical, as if a word is off on purpose to slip free of literal meaning. But when Gary Louris, Olson's songwriting partner, joins him on the soaring chorus—"Would you love me when you're older?"—I hear the message: *She's gone*.

"These songs . . . are mostly sung in harmony," read the album's liner notes, by musician and writer Tony Glover, "not that genetic Everly Brothers sound, rather the genespliced brotherhood of the highway." But by then the Jayhawks brotherhood had split in two. Olson had left the band and moved to the Mojave Desert to cut homemade records with his wife, Victoria Williams. The rest of the Jayhawks carried on, with Louris taking lead vocals, but without those fraternal harmonies.

In time Olson and Louris collaborated again—a little songwriting, a couple of short tours. They played the Ark in 2005, mixing their Jayhawks collaborations with Olson's solo work and songs from the band's last, post-Olson album from 2003, *Rainy Day Music*.

Now Olson and Louris are touring again with a new album. *Ready for the Flood* was recorded two years ago and mostly written in summer 2006. Just months earlier, Olson and his wife had divorced. No surprise, then, that *Ready for the Flood* is quieter, humbler, sadder than a Jayhawks record. "You've gone and let someone turn your pretty name around," Olson sings, distilling romantic disillusion and jealousy after betrayal.

This is the first time Olson and Louris have recorded as a duo, just two guys and two guitars facing each other. The album is hushed and intimate. They're finding solace in each other's company and measuring what's changed. They're trying new sounds: spooky guitar echoes on "When the Wind Comes Up," and a wispy and wistful duet, "Saturday Morning on Sunday Street," that sounds like a Simon and Garfunkel album track.

I think when Olson and Louris play the Ark on Tuesday, February 3, the contrasts and connections between their old and new songs will be more interesting than at most songwriters' reunions. The Jayhawks classics, with their resilience and operatic sweep, will illuminate and uplift the new, quiet songs—just as old friendships can rekindle something we thought we'd lost.

—Erick Trickey

3 TUESDAY

★Game Day: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Tues.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play poker, mahjongg, bridge, tile rummy, and Wii bowling, boxing, and more. Also, at 10 a.m., **Scrabble.** *9:30–11:30 a.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★Preschool Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Tues.* Stories and songs for kids age 2 & up (accompanied by an adult). *Note:* These storytimes are also offered at the Malletts Creek (Wed., 10–10:30 a.m.), Traverwood (Wed., 6–6:30 p.m., and Thurs., 10–10:30 & 11–11:30 a.m.), and Pittsfield (Thurs., 7–7:30 p.m., and Fri., 10–10:30 a.m.) branches. *10–10:30 a.m., AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301 (main library), 327–4200 (branches).*

★Children's Hour: Shaman Drum Bookshop. *Every Tues.* Shaman Drum staff read picture books for kids ages 2–6. *11 a.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★"Elmo's Birthday": Barnes & Noble. All kids ages 2–5 invited to celebrate the *Sesame Street* Muppet's birthday with a storytelling program. Also, while supplies last, each kid gets a coloring/activity book to take home. *11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center. *Every Tues.* Activities begin at 10 a.m. with **"Fitness Fun"** ($4), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar, followed at 1 p.m. by a chance to play **mah-jongg, cards,** and **board games** or join **quilting** and other craft projects. The program concludes at 1:30 p.m. with **Yiddish Tish,** a Yiddish conversation group. Homemade buffet luncheon ($3) available at noon. All invited. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★Brown Bag Lecture: U-M Institute for the Humanities. *Feb. 3, 12, & 17.* Today: U-M sociology grad student Asli Gur discusses **"From Boston to Bosporus: Transculturation of New England Protestantism and College Education in the 19th-Century Ottoman Empire."** Also this month: Concordia University (Montreal) history and sociology professor Erica Lehrer on **"Please Respond: Provoking 'Difficult' Encounters in Today's Post-Holocaust Poland"** (Feb. 12) and U-M Middle East and South Asian history professor **Juan Cole** (see 18 Wednesday), on **"What Is Aljazeera?"** (Feb. 17). *Noon–1:30 p.m., 202 S. Thayer, room 2022. Free. 936–3518.*

★Noon Lecture Series: U-M Center for Chinese Studies. *Every Tues. except Feb. 24.* Talks TBA by U-M and visiting scholars. Free sandwiches, cookies, & coffee served. Today: University of Washington literature professor David Knechtges discusses **"The Problem with Anthologies: The Case of the Poems of Ying Qu (190–252)."** Also this month: MSU sociology professor Xuefei Ren on **"Transnational Architectural Production in Urban China"** (Feb. 10) and U-M history and sociology professor James Lee on **"Higher Education and Diversity: The Changing Origins of University Students in China, 1903–2002"** (Feb. 17). *Noon–1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–6308.*

★Newcomers Coterie Club of Ann Arbor. Performance by retired local special education teacher **Paddy Ash,** a 73-year-old comedienne whose humor draws on the perils and triumphs of getting older. All women who have recently moved or returned to the Ann Arbor–Ypsilanti area invited. Coffee, tea, & dessert served. Preceded at 11:30 a.m. by lunch (preregistration required). *12:30 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. Free. Low-cost child care arrangements available in advance only. 761–9153.*

★U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender Lecture Series. *Feb. 3, 10, & 17.* Today: veteran Hollywood publicist Howard Bragman on **"The Ten Commandments of Public Relations: A GLBT Perspective."** Also this month: self-described "all-American, Jewish, lesbian folksinger" **Phranc**—former member of the 80s synthpunk bands Nervous Gender and Catholic Discipline—discusses **"The Art of the Cardboard Cobbler"** (Feb. 10) and National Center for Health Statistics researcher Katherine Flegal discusses **"Weight and Mortality: Issues of Interpretation"** (Feb. 17). *4–5:30 p.m., 2239 Lane Hall, 204 S. State. Free. 764–9537.*

★Warhammer Tournament: Get Your Game On. *Every Tues., Thurs., & Sat.* All invited to compete in a tournament using the 40K (Tues. & Sat.) and Fantasy (Thurs. & Sat.) editions of this tactical miniatures board game. Also, a Warmachine tournament at 6 p.m. on Saturdays. *5 p.m. (Tues. & Thurs.) & 6 p.m. (Sat.), Get Your Game On, 709 Packard. Free. 786–3746.*

★"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch. *Every Tues.* All knitters invited to bring their current projects to work on and swap knitting tips. *6:30–8:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 945–3035.*

★Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books. All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of ***Maridos,*** Angeles Mastretta's short story collection exploring marital relations across gender, age, and class lines. *6:45 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★Common Thread Knitters Club. *Feb. 3 & 17.* All knitters invited to meet members of this local knitting group and exchange tips. *7 p.m., Arborland Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★"Conquer Your Cravings": Living Yoga. Lecture-demo by local raw foods advocate Ellen Livingston, who hosts a **raw food potluck** on Feb. 15 (1–3 p.m., location TBA). *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. 995–0875.*

★Ann Arbor Area Writers Group. *Every Tues.* All local writers invited to bring samples of their writing to read and discuss. Observers welcome. *7–9 p.m., Borders computer section, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 665–8194.*

★Renaissance Dances: Bedlam. *Feb. 3 & 17.* Beginning to experienced dancers invited to try English country dances, 15th- and 16th-century Italian dances, bransles, pavanes, almans, and more. Instruction provided. Wear comfy clothes and shoes. *7–10 p.m., location TBA. Free. 971–1809.*

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *Every Tues.* Historical and traditional English dancing. Today: Dan Blim and Drake Meadow call to music by Childgrove. Also this month: Callers Bronwen Gates and Don Theyken with music by David West, Donna Baird, and Susie Lorand (Feb. 10), caller Alisa Dodson with music by West, Baird, and Allen Dodson (Feb. 17), and callers Greg Meisner and Arlene Kindel with music by Childgrove (Feb. 24). All dances taught. No partner or experience needed. Dress comfortably and bring flat, nonslip shoes (running shoes OK). *7–9:30 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. $7 (students, $4; children age 13 & under, free). 665–7704.*

★"Blood-Stained to the Elbows: Civil War Surgery and Medicine": Ann Arbor Area Civil War Round Table. Talk by Michigan Regimental Round Table member Jerry Maxwell. *7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off Huron River Dr.). Free. 930–0617.*

★"Getting Ghost: Two Young Lives and the Struggle for the Soul of an American City": Shaman Drum Bookshop. *See review, p. 25.* Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion director **Luke Bergmann** reads from his study of the lives of young African Americans and their families living in largely

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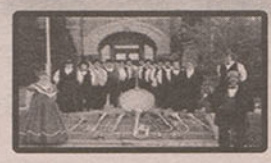

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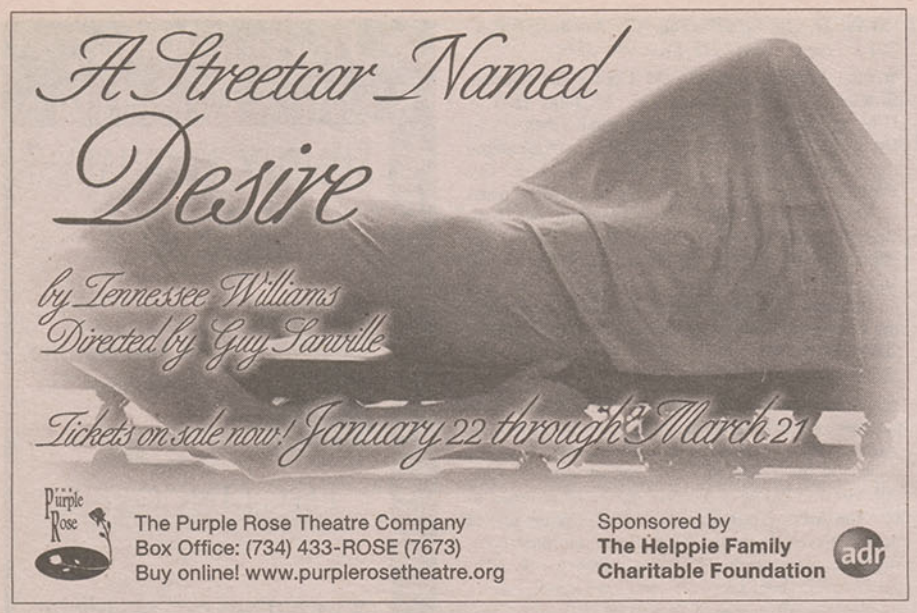

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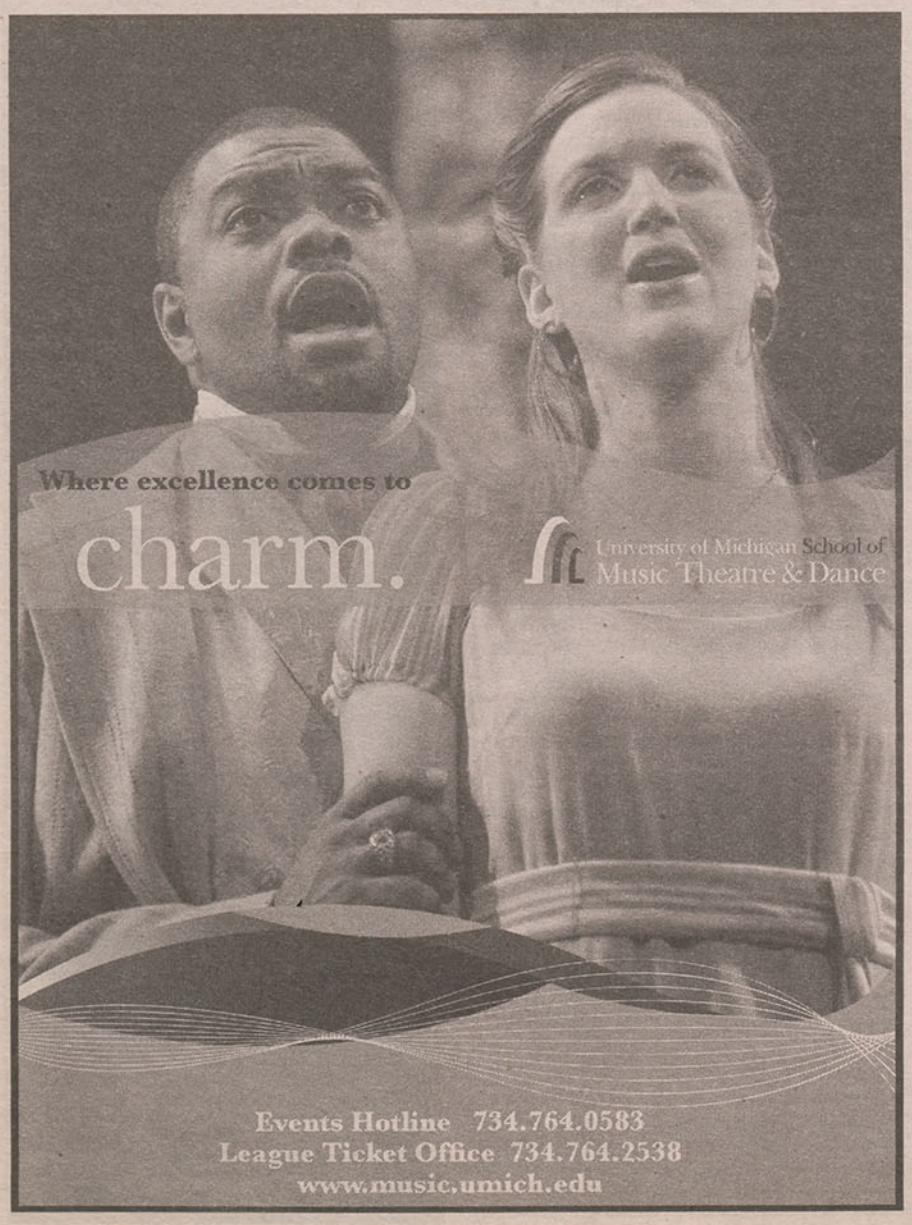

abandoned Detroit neighborhoods. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Sweet Adelines County Connection.** *Every Tues.* All women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 40-member barbershop harmony chorus. *7–10:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($20 monthly dues for those who join). 480–8843.*

★**Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA.** *Every Tues.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *7:30 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($130 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance. For information, call Greg Humbel at 445–1925.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Treetown Community Chorus.** *Every Tues.* All invited to join this fun-loving independent local mixed chorus to sing mostly familiar tunes, along with some serious music, in various genres. David Perample directs. *7:30–9 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free to visitors ($80 per semester membership dues). 213–3770.*

★**Mothers and More.** *Feb. 3 & 26.* Discussion group for moms who have adjusted their careers to spend more time with their children. Today: a **"Preschool Panel,"** with short talks by representatives from local co-op, private, and other preschools. Also this month: a chance to sample **chocolate fondue** (Feb. 26, 7–9 p.m.) at the Chocolate Cafe (330 S. Main). *7:30–9 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Administration Bldg., 6201 W. Michigan Ave. Free. 527–6880.*

★**Ann Arbor Camera Club.** *Feb. 3 & 17.* Tonight: local photographer and experienced traveler Fritz Schafer presents **"The Shot You Missed,"** a slide show suggesting pictures to look for when traveling. Also, club members show their recent film and digital slides of "Ice" and other topics. Also this month: club members show their recent film and digital prints of "Ice" and other topics (Feb. 17). *7:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School Media Center, 1655 Newport at Sunset. Free ($25 annual dues for those who join). 327–4781.*

"The Swift Path": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. *Every Tues.* Talks by **Gehlek Rimpoche,** an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of Gehlek's senior students. *7:30–9 p.m., Jewel Heart Center, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. (just south of Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.). $10 (students & seniors, $5). 994–3387.*

★**German Speakers' Round Table.** *Every Tues.* All German speakers invited for conversation. *8–10 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 453–2394.*

"Firefly Funnies": The Firefly Club. Showcase of top local stand-up comics, along with some improv comedy. *8–11 p.m., Firefly Club, 637 S. Main. $3. 665–9090.*

★**"Triple Double Trivia": The Arena Sports Grille and Bar.** *Every Tues.* All invited to try a wide-ranging trivia quiz for such prizes as T-shirts, hats, and gift certificates. Bonus points awarded for "stupid human tricks" like drinking beer upside down, dancing to Michael Jackson songs, or inserting an entire fist into your mouth. *10 p.m., The Arena, 203 E. Washington. Free. 222–9999.*

4 WEDNESDAY

★**"Storytime for Boys and Girls": Waters Place Borders.** *Every Wed. & Fri.* Borders staffers "Ms. Kathy" and "Ms. Joan" read stories, lead sing-alongs, and play kids games. *10 a.m., Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

"The Spirit of Harriet Tubman": Wild Swan Theater. *Feb. 4–6 & 8.* This award-winning local children's theater presents Toronto schoolteacher Leslie McCurdy, who performs her acclaimed one-woman play about Tubman's life from her experience as a slave to her work on the Underground Railroad. In celebration of African American History Month. A score of spirituals and period songs is performed live by acclaimed local musician Peter Madcat Ruth on harmonica and stringed instruments. As with all Wild Swan productions, the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language. Audio description and backstage "touch" tours are available by prearrangement for blind audience members. *10 a.m. (sold out) & 12:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $12 (children & seniors, $8; lap passes for kids age 2 & under, $3) in advance and at the door. 995–0530.*

★**"The Taste of Ann Arbor No-Mile Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Feb. 4 & 18.* Riders meet for lunch at different restaurants on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays through the winter. *11:30 a.m., location TBA. Free. 662–5052.*

★**Social Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Wed.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. *12:45–4 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Chess: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** *Every Wed.* All seniors invited to play chess. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**Scrabble: Ann Arbor Scrabblers.** *Every Wed.* All invited to join local Scrabble enthusiasts to play this popular word game. Bring a board and tiles, if you have them. *5–8 p.m., Arbor Brewing, 114 E. Washington. Free. 994–0084.*

★**"Architecture Between Front and Rear: Designing WW II": U-M College of Architecture and Urban Planning.** Lecture by NYU history professor **Jean-Louis Cohen.** *6–8 p.m., U-M Art & Architecture Bldg., 2000 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 936–0206.*

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. *Every Wed.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early to arrange for one. *7–11 p.m., Walden Hills clubhouse, 2114 Pauline at Maple. (Park on the north side of Pauline.) $3 per person. 971–7530.*

"Emily's Commemorative Dinner": Eve Restaurant. Eve manager Rick Halberg prepares some favorite dishes he made when he was a chef at Emily's Restaurant in Northville. *7 p.m., Eve, Kerrytown. $85 (does not include tax & gratuity). Reservations required. 222–0711.*

★**"Ballroom Dancing: The Latest Craze": Ann Arbor District Library.** Moonlight Dance Studio co-owner **Natalia Vail** introduces teens and adults to the steps of a variety of popular ballroom dances. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**Works-in-Progress Series: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** *Feb. 4 & 18.* Featured writers read from their current work. Tonight: **Best Friends Forever,** the local art-video-music duo of **Alana DeRiggi and Holly Mae Haddock,** and a fiction reading by Huron High School student **Eva Colas.** *7–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**"The Mighty Queens of Freeville": Waters Place Borders.** "Ask Amy" advice columnist **Amy Dickinson** gives a talk via videoconferencing about her new memoir, a heartbreaking story about her experiences as a single parent in a tiny town. Signing via LongPen, a long-distance, pen-and-ink electronic signing device. *7 p.m., Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

★**Emily Warn: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This Kalamazoo College grad, a Poetry Foundation website editor who currently lives in Seattle and Chicago, reads from ***Shadow Architect,*** a collection of poems, organized around the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet, exploring how words are made and whence they derive their power. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club.** All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. *7:30–10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad St., Dexter. Free. 426–5100.*

Kapell Trio: Kerrytown Concert House. The trio of U-M violin professor Stephen Shipps, pianist Stephen Swedish, and cellist Pablo Mahave-Veglia performs Brahms's Piano Quartet no. 1 in G Minor and Martinu's Piano Trio no. 1 *(Cinq Pieces Breves)* and Piano Trio no. 2. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 8 p.m.

The Whitest Kids U'Know: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Acclaimed sketch comedy troupe from New York City, best known through its popular IFC cable channel TV show, that specializes in irreverent takes on pop culture, current events, and the stresses of daily life. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $20 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

"Juke Box Jungle": Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Wed.* Conor O'Neill's staff member Brian Aherne hosts a music trivia quiz. Prizes. *9–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $3 team fee. 665–2968.*

Wednesdays @ Michigan Union: Swing Ann Arbor. *Every Wed.* Swing dancing to prerecorded music. No partner needed. Bring casual or nicer shoes that stay on your feet when you're active. Preceded by intermediate swing (7:30 p.m.) and beginning swing (8:30 p.m.) lessons. *9:30–11 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room (occasionally Ballroom or U-Club). $5 (includes lessons). 945–8428.*

5 THURSDAY

★**Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Thursday.* A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with **"Fitness Fun"** ($4), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. An 11 a.m. **Current Events** discussion group led by Heather Dombey is followed at noon by a homemade dairy lunch ($3 with reservation, $4 without reservation and for nonseniors) and at 1 p.m. by a cultural or educational program. Today: Jewish Federation representative Tomer Zur discusses **"Sderot,"** an Israeli city in the western Negev that has borne the brunt of rocket attacks from Gaza since 2001. Preceded at 12:30 p.m. by a celebration

AXIS Coffeehouse

Poems and games at Malletts Creek

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

At 6:30, the scheduled starting time for the AXIS Coffeehouse, the only people in the multipurpose room of the Malletts Creek Branch of the Ann Arbor District Library are teen services librarian Sharon Iverson and intern Cherie Lee. They've covered the room's tables with books, blank paper, pencils, and games—Parcheesi, Boggle, Bang, Jenga Extreme, and Spite and Malice.

Refreshments are in the corner, but "coffeehouse" is a bit of a misnomer for AXIS. There's nary a latte in sight, though there is decaf and black tea. "We don't drink very much of those," admits Iverson. "It's just the idea of it." "Cocoahouse" would be more accurate, as there are plenty of packets of cocoa mix, plus pretzel sticks and a couple varieties of cookies.

As the middle-school-age audience trickles in, Iverson and Lee welcome the young people. Iverson repeats their names out loud to help herself memorize them. "I remember you guys," Lee greets two girls enthusiastically. "You're back!" A boy shyly introduces himself and adds, "I'm just here to listen."

By 7 there are a dozen teens milling around the room. AXIS Coffeehouse is about poetry reading and writing, and Iverson takes the microphone to invite everyone to read an original poem, or from one of the books on the tables. There are rewards for all readers: $5-off-library-fine coupons, a free book, and extra-credit slips. "When someone comes up to the mike, we want to be a good audience," she says. "For example, the Boggle game—if you don't shake the letters at that time, we appreciate that." Then Iverson models a performance, reading a poem called "Frost," and ends with "So, that's how it happens."

For the next half hour everyone is busy reading, writing, playing, sipping, munching, and egging each other on: "You need to fight the fright of stage fright!" "I'm serious!" "I'm not going up there!" "Read it! Read it!"

At 7:30, a girl braves the mike and reads a David Parker poem that begins, "Pay attention, youth, and seek to find a seed that grows in a cave of light." That breaks the dam. A steady stream of readers follows, some alone, some in tandem, some in larger groupings. One girl can't face the audience when she starts but does by the time she ends. An original poem, "When I Pray," gets an especially heartfelt response.

By 8, almost every one of the more than two dozen teens has read—to appreciative peer applause. A boy, accompanied by three friends adding hip-hop sound effects, appears to close the evening with his poem, "My Voice Is the Voice That Ends This Set." But the boy who earlier announced he came only to listen no longer can resist the lure of the limelight, or perhaps the rewards, and approaches the mike to wrap the night with one final poem.

The Malletts Creek Branch hosts the AXIS Coffeehouse on Friday, February 6, and Friday, February 13.

—Sandor Slomovits

of February birthdays. Also this month: Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra artistic director Arie Lipsky and AASO outreach director Laura Dunbar on **"Music History, Music Appreciation, and Music in Ann Arbor"** (Feb. 12), Beth Israel Congregation rabbi Kim Blumenthal on a topic TBA (Feb. 19), and a video of excerpts from past productions of the JCC **Seniors on Stage** (Feb. 26). *10 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

"The U.S. Supreme Court: Past Decisions and Future Directions": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. *Every Thurs., Jan. 8–Feb. 12.* A series of 6 weekly lectures by different U-M law professors. Open to anyone age 55 & older. Today: Richard Friedman discusses **"The New Deal and the Court: FDR and the Nine Old Men."** Also this month: Monica Hakimi **"On the U.S. Supreme Court and the Global War on Terror"** (Feb. 12). *10–11:30 a.m., Best Western Conference Center, 2900 Jackson Rd. $45 (members, $30) for the 6-lecture series, $25 (members, $10) per lecture. Memberships are $15 a year. 998–9351.*

"The Spirit of Harriet Tubman": Wild Swan Theater. See 4 Wednesday. 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 11 a.m.

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Thurs.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *Noon–3:30 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard. $5. 769–5911.*

★Noon Lectures: U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. *Feb. 5 & 19.* Today: U-M law professor Madeline Kochen on **"The Economy of the Sacred in Jewish Law."** Also this month: Ben-Gurion University (Israel) Hebrew literature professor Amir Banbaji on **"New Historiographies of the Haskala: 1950s Marxist Perspectives"** (Feb. 19). *Noon, Frankel Center, 202 S. Thayer. Free. 763–9047.*

★Noon Lecture Series: U-M Center for Japanese Studies. *Feb. 5, 12, & 19.* Talks by U-M and visiting scholars. Today: California State University Asian and Asian American studies lecturer Matthew Burdelski presents a video-illustrated lecture on **"Socializing Politeness."** Also this month: Columbia University Japanese literature and culture professor Haruo Shirane on **"Culture of the Four Seasons: Secondary Nature, Social Difference, and Trans-Seasonality"** (Feb. 12) and Oberlin College religion and East Asian studies professor James Dobbins on **"Japanese Temples and Congregations in Early Shin Buddhism"** (Feb. 19). *Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–6307.*

★Bunyan Bryant: U-M Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library. This U-M natural resources and urban planning professor discusses corporate and community responses to **hazardous waste sites.** *Noon, Hatcher Library Gallery, room 100. Free. 615–3194.*

★Gifts of Art: U-M Hospitals. *Feb. 5, 12, 19, & 26.* Performances by local musicians. Today: song settings of poems by **Laz & Friends,** an ensemble led by Laz Slomovits of the popular local acoustic duo Gemini. Also this month: Michigan folk music by **Neil Woodward** (Feb. 12), jazz by the **Swinging Strings** (Feb. 19), and storytelling and songs by **Tiana Marquez** (Feb. 26). *12:10 p.m., U-M Hospital lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

★"Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness": WCC. Screening of this short documentary narrated by Robert Redford. Followed by a talk by Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance organizer Clayton Daughenbaugh. *2–3:30 p.m., WCC Health and Fitness Center, 4833 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 973–3500.*

★"Access Soapbox": Ann Arbor Community Television Network. *Feb. 5 & 19.* A chance to express your views, discuss your activities, or announce upcoming events on the local public access station (cable channel 17). Participants are free to talk about anything they

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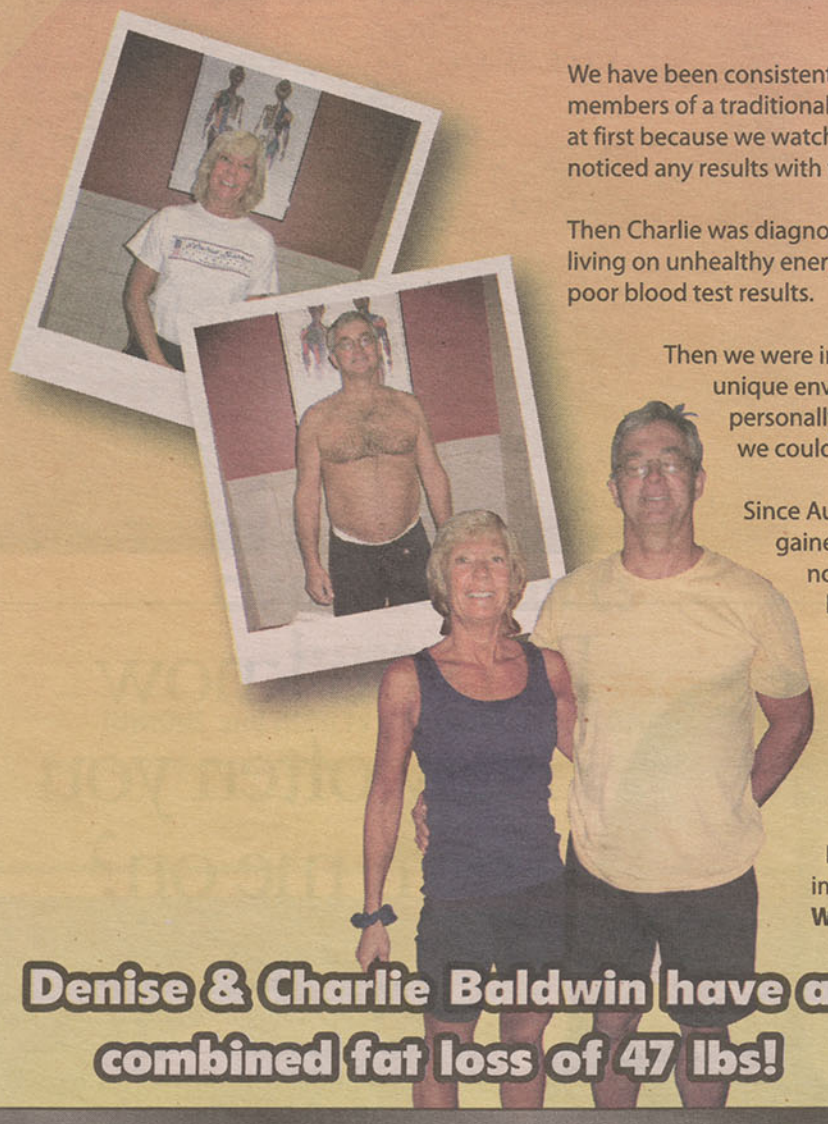
ULTIMATE 16-WEEK BODY TRANSFORMATION



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wish within CTN guidelines: no direct solicitation of funds, no lottery information, and no material that is obscene, defamatory, invasive of personal privacy, or infringing on copyrights or trademarks. Limited to 5 minutes, each segment features 1 or 2 speakers (with no more than 2 graphics) who talk directly to the camera. Production crew provided by CTN. *Access Soapbox* shows are aired daily for 1 week, beginning on Sunday. *3–6 p.m., CTN studio, 2805 South Industrial, suite 200. Free. Reservations required. 769–7422, ext. 1504.*

★**"From Communists to Foreign Capitalists: The Social Foundations of Foreign Direct Investment in Postsocialist Europe": U-M Center for European Studies "Conversations on Europe."** Talk by University of California–Irvine sociology professor Nina Bandelj. *4–6 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647–2743.*

★**"Science Communication Through Art and Technology": U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Lecture Series.** Talk by **Jose Francisco Salgado,** an astronomer, photographer, and graphic designer whose work attempts to provoke curiosity about the earth and the universe. *5 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 647–2337.*

Used Book Sale: Northside Elementary School. Sale of fiction, nonfiction, children's books, games, puzzles, movies, coloring books, and computer software. *5:30–8:30 p.m., Northside, 912 Barton Dr. Free admission. 994–1958.*

★**Board Game Night: Get Your Game On.** *Every Thurs. & Sat.* All invited to bring their own favorite board game or play one of the store's. *6 p.m., Get Your Game On, 709 Packard. Free. 786–3746.*

★**Dave Mason: Best Buy.** This veteran rock singer-songwriter and guitarist, who first came to prominence as a member of Traffic in the late 60s, performs songs from his new CD *26 Letters and 12 Notes. 6–6:30 p.m., Best Buy, 3100 Lohr Rd. Free. 741–1357.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Penn State. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

★**Meditation and Chanting: Siddha Yoga Meditation Center of Ann Arbor.** *Every Thurs.* All invited for chanting and meditation. *7–8:30 p.m., Siddha Yoga, Arbor Atrium, suite 280, 315 W. Huron. Free. 747–7116.*

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor City Club. *Every Thurs.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $5. 761–6691.*

"The Romantic Bouquet": Washtenaw Whole Foods Market. Lecture-demo by Whole Foods florist Michelle Shaffer. *7 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. $10 (includes a bouquet to take home). Preregistration requested. 975–4500.*

"Delicatessen Tastings": Zingerman's Delicatessen. *Feb. 5, 11, 18, & 25.* Zingerman's staff and guest food experts discuss and offer taste samples of various gourmet delights. Today: Shawn Askinosie, a Springfield, Missouri, lawyer-turned-chocolatier, discusses and offers taste samples of his popular **gourmet bean-to-bar chocolates.** Also this month: **"Foods from the Other Americas"** (Feb. 11), **"Rice and Beans"** (Feb. 18) and **"Some Like It Hot: Chili Peppers"** (Feb. 25). *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs kids room), 422 Detroit St. $20 ($30 on Feb. 5) in advance, $25 ($30 on Feb. 5) at the door. Space limited; reservations required. 663–3354.*

★**Huron Hills Lapidary & Mineral Society.** Slide presentation on **fossils** by a club member TBA. Also, club members show their fossil specimens. *7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church social hall, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 665–5574.*

★**"Trek to Everest Base Camp": Of Global Interest.** Local adventure tour guide Heather O'Neal, who regularly travels to the Himalayas for her business Of Global Interest, shows a DVD of her last trip to Nepal. *7–8:30 p.m., 120 Eighth St. Free. 369–3107.*

★**Valerie Laken: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** *See "Dream House," p. 21.* This University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee creative writing professor, a U-M creative writing grad, reads from ***Dream House,*** her novel, set in Ann Arbor, about a young couple with a troubled marriage who, having invested all they had in a historic fixer-upper on the Old West Side, discover that the house was the site of a murder that destroyed the family of the previous owners. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**"Freshman Directors Showcase" and "Night of the Fights": U-M Basement Arts.** *Feb. 5–7.* U-M theater students direct 3 short plays followed by several choreographed stage combat scenes. Porscha Kazmierczak directs K. M. Chopin's ***Double Take,*** a 10-minute play about the unspoken words between men and women. Richard Grasso directs ***Red Carnations,*** Glenn Hughes's comedy about a boy and a man on a park bench who learn they're both waiting for the same girl. Roman Micevic directs ***Photographs from S–21,*** Catherine Filloux's drama about 2 photographs of executed Cambodians that come to life in the Museum of Modern Art. *7 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Studio 1, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. basement@umich.edu.*

galleries

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor District Library, *Malletts Creek Branch,* 3090 E. Eisenhower Pkwy. *Of Two Minds: Paintings by Barb Anderson and Edith Maynard* (Feb. 2–Mar. 14). 327–4510.

Clay Gallery, 335 S. Main. *The Spirit of Design in Clay: Sculpture by Robert and Gail Piepenburg* (Feb. 1–28). Reception 6 Fri., 7–9 p.m. 662–7927.

Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. *Gross Love: Art Inspired by Biology, Anatomy, and Romance* (Feb. 1–28). Reception 13 Fri., 6 p.m. 657–2337.

EMU University Art Gallery, 900 Oakwood, Ypsilanti. *Women's Ware/Women's Wear* (Feb. 17–Mar. 26). Reception 18 Wed., 4–6 p.m. 487–0465.

Gallery 55+, 2401 Plymouth Rd. *Photography by Thomas DesJardin & Paul Jaronski* (Feb. 2–Apr. 30). Reception 15 Sun., 4–5:30 p.m. 998–9354.

Gifts of Art (U-M Hospitals). *In Praise of Physical Labor: Pastel Prints by Jaye Schlesinger; Realism in Clay: Sculpture by Gail Kaplan; Wilderness Images: Nature Photography by Steve Gettle; Animals in Clay by Laurie Sharkus; Stillness in Motion: Encaustic Wax on Screen by Lynda Cole; Epiphany Glass Sculpture by April Wagner & Jason Ruff; Spotlight on Sports: Oil Paintings by Jeff Joseph* (Feb. 16–Apr. 13). 936–ARTS.

Jewish Community Center Amster Gallery, 2935 Birch Hollow. *Judaic Quilts by Benedette Palazzola* (through Feb. 28). 971–0990.

Pierre Paul Gallery, 3370 Washtenaw Ave. *From the Outside Looking In: Paintings by H. M. Saffer & Klara Chavarria* (Feb. 9–Apr. 30). 975–1050.

River Gallery, 120 N. Main, Chelsea. *Sculpture by Michael Kapetan* (through Mar. 8). 433–0826.

Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. *EMU Art Masters Association Sixth Invitational Exhibit* (Feb. 5–28). Reception 7 Sat., 5–7 p.m.

U-M Bentley Historical Library, 1150 Beal. *Stargazing: 150 Years of Astronomy at the U-M* (through Apr. 30). 764–3482.

U-M Clements Library, 909 South University. *500 Years of American Grapes and Wine: A Remarkable Journey* (Feb. 16–May 29). 764–2347.

U-M Exhibit Museum of Natural History, 1109 Geddes. *Hubble Space Telescope: New Views of the Universe; Reaching for the Stars, and Beyond: Astronomy at the University of Michigan; ViewSpace: Daily Broadcasts from Outer Space* (all through July 1). 763–4191.

U-M Ford Presidential Library, 1000 Beal. *Economy in Crisis, 1974* (Feb. 11–winter 2010). 205–0555.

U-M Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library Gallery, room 100. *Out of This World: Large-Scale Images of the Cosmos* (Jan. 22–Mar. 7). Reception 19 Thurs., 4–7 p.m. *Library Treasures* (Feb. 8). Reception 8 Sun., 4–7 p.m. *Celestial Maps and Atlases* (Feb. 19). Reception 19 Thurs., 4–7 p.m. 615–3194.

U-M Michigan League, 911 North University. *Ann Arbor Women Artists Winter 2009 Exhibit* (through Feb. 13). 763–4652.

U-M Michigan Union, 530 S. State. *Dream Seedling, for a Better World: Various Media by Various Artists* (Feb. 20–Mar. 14). 763–5750.

U-M School of Social Work, 1080 South University. *Portraits of Homelessness: Photographs by Joan Zald* (Feb. 9–Mar. 26). See 10 Tues. Events listing. 763–6886.

U-M Shapiro Science Library, 919 South University, 3rd floor. *Celebrating U-M Scientific Achievement: U-M Natural Sciences Faculty, Staff, & Student Journal & Book Covers* (opens Feb. 18). Reception 18 Wed., 4–6 p.m. Reservations requested by Feb. 9. 764–3577.

U-M Slusser Gallery (U-M School of Art & Design), 2000 Bonisteel. *Imagining the Universe* (Feb. 6–Mar. 6). Reception 6 Fri., 6–9 p.m. 763–4417.

U-M Special Collections Library, Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, 7th floor. *Watchers of the Sky: Astronomy to the Invention of the Telescope* (Feb. 9–Apr. 11). 764–9377.

U-M Work (U-M School of Art & Design), 306 S. State. *Storm: Various Media by Various Artists* (Feb. 6–Mar. 6). Reception 6 Fri., 6–9 p.m. 998–6178.

WSG Gallery, 306 S. Main. *Portraits from* Through the Looking Glass *by Dee Ann Segula* (Feb. 17–Mar. 29). Reception 21 Sat., 4–6 p.m. 761–2287.

WCC Gallery One, Student Center Bldg. *At the Junction: Industrial Design* (Feb. 5–Apr. 20). 477–8512.

Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway. *Instructor Exhibitions: Pottery, Sculpture, and Encaustic by Kate Tremel, Donna Williams, Kay Yourist, Nancy Bulkley, Josie Bockelman, Deb Oliva, Ryan Forrey, Norma Penchansky-Glasser, and Leslie Sobel* (through Mar. 31). 662–4914.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 2008–2009 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide or arborweb.com.

Dee Ann Segula's *Ready to Party* is on display at WSG Gallery through Mar. 29.

Israeli Dancing: Jewish Community Center. *Every Thurs.* West Bloomfield dance instructors Cheryl Felt and Amnon Steiner lead a variety of Israeli dancing to recorded music. Easy dances and oldies the first hour followed by intermediate and requests. Beginners welcome. New dances taught each week. Wear sneakers or other flat, comfortable shoes. *7:30–10 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $6 (kids, $3). 971–0990.*

"Rat-a-Tap Tap!": Sole Full of Rhythm. *Feb. 5–7.* Professional and student members of this local tap dance ensemble, along with Turn on the Tap (Toronto) artistic director **Paula Skimin,** present a program of tap dancing, with live musical accompaniment, choreographed by Sole Full of Rhythm artistic director **Sara Randazzo.** Local singer-songwriter **Dick Siegel** performs his delightfully cartoonish environmental rap "All the Naughty Children" to the rhythmic accompaniment of 2 dancers, as well as his kinetic instrumental "Up the Waterfall" and the popular call-and-response song "Can I Sing." Other accompanists include the local jazz duo of pianist **Rick Roe** and bassist **Josef Deas.** Also, a silent auction. *7:30 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $15 in advance at Randazzo Dance Studio (4569 Washtenaw) and Dancers Boutique (2414 E. Stadium), and $20 at the door. 477–9530.*

"Evita": Encore Musical Theatre Company. *Feb. 5–8 & 12–15.* Encore artistic director Dan Cooney directs this new Dexter-based professional company's premiere production, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's pop opera chronicling Eva Peron's rise from poverty to political power through her marriage to Argentinean president Juan Peron, a drama narrated by revolutionary Che Guevara. The opera's best-known song is "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina." Cast: Jessica Grove, John Sartor, Steve DeBruyne, Chuck Colby, and director Cooney. *7:30 p.m., Encore, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Tickets $28 (members & seniors, $25; youths under age 18 & groups of 10 or more, $22) in advance at theencoretheatre.org and at the door. 268–6200.*

★Motor City Metro Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. *Every Thurs.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *8–10 p.m., ICC Education*

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Taking a page from the best-selling book, *The Last Lecture*, by Randy Pausch, we have asked three thoughtfully provocative Ann Arborites to "consider their demise and ruminate on what matters most to them."

Thursday, February 19th
Max Heirich, PhD
U-M Sociology Professor Emeritus, Author, Quaker Activist, and Leader in Ann Arbor's Holistic Health Care Movement

Thursday, March 19th
Kate Mehuron, PhD
Professor of History and Philosophy at Eastern Michigan University

Thursday, April 16th
Bronwen Gates, PhD
Herbalist, Botanist, Indigenous Healer and Spiritual Counselor

All are welcome. Free.
7 PM in the Crazy Wisdom Tea Room
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For more info: bill@crazywisdom.net

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Theatre

Tom Key: C.S. Lewis on Stage

Sunday, February 15 • 3:00 p.m.
Kreft Center Black Box Theatre
Tickets: $10 or $5 for students & seniors

C.S. Lewis On Stage captures the personality and fiction of the author of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *The Screwtape Letters*, and subject of the Anthony Hopkins film *Shadowlands*, an Oxford don who could make his audience think as deeply as he made them laugh.

Gallery

Kreft Competition Show ✦

February 17- March 22
Opening reception and curator's gallery talk
Friday, February 20
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. • Kreft Center Gallery

The 2009 Kreft Juried Exhibition will display the very best in the visual arts that incorporates various meanings and potential approaches to the idea of reconciliation: a sense of connection or re-connection between people and communities, a sense of making one thing compatible with another; of bringing together disparate elements into an harmonious whole or a momentary sense of completion and/or fulfillment. Artists from around the country will be displayed.

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Books & Coffee

Julie Stiegemeyer, Children's Book Author ✦

Thursday, February 12 • 4:00 p.m.
Earhart Manor Living Room

Author Julie Stiegemeyer reads from and talks about a number of her popular children's books, including her latest, from Dutton Children's Books, *Gobble Gobble Crash*. Previous books by Stiegemeyer include *Cheep! Cheep!*, *Merry Christmas, Cheeps!*, and *St. Nicholas*.

Empire Brass

Music

Empire Brass

Sunday, March 22 • 4:00 p.m.
Chapel of the Holy Trinity
Tickets: $10–15

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Center (behind Luther House at 1520 Hill). Free to visitors ($130 annual dues for those who join). Park on Lincoln or Baldwin. 474–1155.

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

D. C. Malone: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Feb. 5–7.* Solo performance by this former longtime member of the popular Detroit musical comedy duo Malone & Nootcheez. His show blends inventively playful musical parodies, off-the-wall observations, and witty sparring with his audience. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $7 (Thurs.) & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

6 FRIDAY

"Tiny Tot Time": Leslie Science and Nature Center. A program of hikes, storytelling, songs, puppets, and crafts for kids ages 1–3 (accompanied by a caregiver). Snacks provided; dress for the outdoors. *9:30–11 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $6. 997–1553.*

★"Music and Motion": Ann Arbor District Library. Local early childhood educator Gari Stein, director of Music for Little Kids, local pianist Kathryn Goodson, and U-M tuba professor Fritz Kaenzig lead babies through 5th-graders (accompanied by an adult) in a program that includes storytelling and dancing to live music. Participants also learn about the instruments. *9:30–10 & 10:30–11 a.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

"The Spirit of Harriet Tubman": Wild Swan Theater. See 4 Wednesday. Today's 10 a.m. show is sold out. 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

★"Brown Bag Lunch Performance": Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. AASPA wind, string, and piano faculty perform works TBA. Bring a bag lunch. *Noon, Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts, 637 S. Main. Free. 213–2000.*

★Bingo: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Fri.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play a variety of styles of bingo. *1 p.m., Brookhaven Manor, 401 W. Oakbrook (off S. Main north of Eisenhower). Free. 769–5911.*

★Socrates Cafe: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Fri.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to join a discussion of ethics that draws on the Socratic method of questioning underlying assumptions. *1–1:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★"Geopolitics, the Future, and You: A Call to Action": U-M Erb Institute. Talk by **John Perkins,** author of *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*, a best-selling memoir about Perkins's experiences working for an international consulting firm that tried to convince developing countries to accept enormous loans and to funnel that money to U.S. corporations. Once saddled with debt, these countries were vulnerable to U.S. government pressure for access to natural resources, military cooperation, and political support. *Afternoon time TBA, U-M Ross School of Business, 6th floor, 701 Tappan. Free. 763–8155.*

★Winter Carnival: Chelsea American Legion Post 31. *Feb. 6–8.* Three days of competitive ice fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and other winter fun at Cavanaugh Lake. Daily special events: a euchre tournament ($5 entry fee; prizes) on February 6, Monte Carlo casino games on February 7, and dancing to live oldies by **Star 59** on February 8. Refreshments, breakfasts, and light lunches available. *5 p.m.–1 a.m. (Feb. 6), 7 a.m.–1 a.m. (Feb. 7), & 7 a.m.–6 p.m. (Feb. 8). American Legion Hall, 1700 Ridge Rd. (off Cavanaugh Lake Rd. from Kalmbach Rd. north from I-94 exit 156), Chelsea. Free admission. 475–9535.*

First Friday Shabbat: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. JCS students lead a secular Shabbat celebration that includes candle lighting, singing, and other Jewish rituals. Dinner features locally grown foods and products from local businesses. Children welcome. All invited. *6:30–9 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $10 (family, $25). Reservations required. 975–9872.*

★AXIS Coffeehouse: Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Fri., Jan. 9–Feb. 13. See review, p. 29.* All kids in grades 6–12 invited to perform their own poetry or monologue, or a favorite by another writer, or just to sip a hot drink and listen. *6:30–8 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★Reiki: Center for Intuitive Health. Local reiki master Ray Golden discusses this healing technique and gives minitreatments. *7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663–9724.*

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. *7–9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. $5 requested donation. 332–7964.*

The Saline Fiddlers' 15th Annual Hometown Concert is Feb. 7.

First Friday Ballroom Dance Party: Arts in Motion Dance Studio. Dancing to recorded waltzes, fox-trots, swing, and Latin dance music. Lessons for beginners. *7–9 p.m., Arts in Motion, 2841 Boardwalk. $5 per person. Reservations requested. 222–6246.*

★**Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department.** Readings by U-M creative writing instructors and grad students. Today: prose by **Sara Schaff** and poetry by **Nava Etshalom.** *7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 615–3710.*

"Reefer Madness": EMU Theater Department. *Feb. 6–8 & 12–14.* EMU theater professor Phil Simmons directs EMU drama students in Dan Studney and Kevin Murphy's satirical musical about a letter-wearing varsity dweeb whose life disintegrates when he visits a smoky den of iniquity. Based on the 1936 antimarijuana film that survives as a campy cult favorite. *7 p.m., Quirk Theater, Ford St. (off Lowell from Huron River Dr.), EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Tickets $15 (students, $12; kids age 12 & under, $6) in advance and at the door. 487–2282.*

★**"Freshman Directors Showcase" and "Night of the Fights": U-M Basement Arts.** See 5 Thursday. 7 & 11 p.m.

State of Michigan Classic: U-M Women's Gymnastics. The U-M squad hosts a meet with MSU, EMU, CMU, and WMU. *7:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths age 12 & under, $1; U-M students, free). 763–2159.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Lake Superior State. *Feb. 6 & 7. 7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. $12–$17. 764–0247.*

★**"Astronomy of the 21st Century" Lecture Series: U-M Astronomy Department.** *Feb. 6 & 20.* Talks by visiting astronomy experts. Today: former NASA associate administrator **Alan Stern** discusses **"A Revolution in Planetary Science."** Also this month: 2008 MacArthur fellow **Andrea Ghez** discusses **"Unveiling a Black Hole at the Center of Our Galaxy"** (Feb. 20). *7:30 p.m., 1800 Chemistry, 930 North University. Free. 763–4190.*

"The Laramie Project": Huron High Players. *Feb. 6, 7, 13, & 14.* Bj Wallingford directs Huron High students in Moises Kaufman's moving portrait of a community dealing with loss, based on over 200 interviews Kaufman conducted about the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyoming. *7:30 p.m., Huron High School Theater, 2727 Fuller Rd. at Huron Pkwy. Tickets $8 (students & seniors, $6) in advance and at the door. 994–2096.*

"Annie Get Your Gun": Burns Park Players 26th Annual Production. *Feb. 6, 7, 13, & 14.* Burns Park Elementary School students, parents, and friends—a group cited by former *Ann Arbor News* drama critic Chris Potter in his 2002 theater roundup as one of the best theater groups in town—perform Irving Berlin's popular musical, a fictionalization of the life of sharpshooter Annie Oakley, a country girl and crack shot who joins the traveling Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show and falls in love with a fellow entertainer who's intimidated by her superior shooting skills. Eventually, chief Sitting Bull somehow persuades the fiercely independent Annie to choke down her pride and intentionally lose a match in order to win her man. Berlin's score is one of his finest and includes "There's No Business like Show Business," "You Can't Get a Man with a Gun," and the humorous competitive duet "Anything You Can Do (I Can Do Better)." Proceeds benefit children's cultural arts programs—the Players have donated more than $200,000 since 1984. These shows almost always sell out, so get tickets early. *Note:* A Feb. 5 dress rehearsal is open to the public ($5 at the door only). *7:30 p.m., Tappan Middle School auditorium, 2251 E. Stadium Blvd. at Packard. Tickets $15 in advance at Morgan & York and (if available) at the door. $35 patron tickets available in advance by emailing kenncol@aol.com. 662–0798.*

"Rat-a-Tap Tap!": Sole Full of Rhythm. See 5 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Gale Kramer: Bethlehem United Church of Christ.** This local organist plays works TBA. *7:30 p.m., Bethlehem UCC, 423 S. 4th Ave. Free; donations accepted. 665–6149.*

★**EMU Symphonic Band and University Choir: EMU Music Department.** John Zastoupil and Trey Jacobs direct these 2 music-student ensembles in music by Hassler, Dickau, and Vaughan Williams. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**Yung-chiao Wei & Chao-i Chou: U-M School of Music.** Louisiana State University double bass professor Wei and Kaohsiung Shi-chein University (Taiwan) piano professor Chou perform Chopin's Sonata for Cello and Piano and Elgar's Cello Concerto in E-Minor. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★**Symphony Band: U-M School of Music.** Michael Haithcock conducts this music-student ensemble in the world premiere of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer (and retiring U-M music professor) **William Bolcom's *First Symphony for Band,*** a piece commissioned by the Big 10 Band Directors Association. The program also includes works by Dvorak, Stravinsky, and Holst. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

Michael Beauchamp & Susan Fawcett: Canterbury House. Old-time and other tunes by local folk-style acoustic singer-songwriter Beauchamp and Traverse City-based multi-instrumentalist Fawcett. *8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. $10 (students & seniors, $5). 761–3162.*

"Midwest Hip-Hop Summit": U-M 23rd Annual MLK Symposium. *Feb. 6 & 7.* Two days of hip-hop-related events. Tonight: a concert featuring the North Carolina hip-hop group **Little Brother,** Somali-Canadian rapper **K'NAAN,** Pontiac rapper **One Be Lo,** and Detroit rapper **Invincible.** *8 p.m.–midnight, Michigan Union. $25 (U-M students, $20) in advance at ticketmaster.com. 763–9044.*

One-Act Plays: Greenhills School Voodoo Theater Company. *Feb. 6 & 7.* Greenhills students direct each other in various one-act plays, including some they've written. *8 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Tickets $5 at the door only. 769–4010.*

"The Grapes of Wrath": Blackbird Theatre. *Feb. 6 & 7.* Lynch Travis directs area actors in a staged reading of Frank Galati's Tony-winning 1990 adaptation of John Steinbeck's classic novel about the crushing inequities of the American experience endured by refugees from the Oklahoma dust bowl seeking new fortunes in the lush, fruitful fields of California. *8 p.m., Blackbird Theatre, 1600 Pauline (at Kay Pkwy. east of Stadium). Tickets $20 (seniors, $15; students, $10) in advance at blackbirdtheatre.org and at the door. 332–3848.*

"Earth and Sky": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. *Feb. 6–8, 13, & 14.* Matt Martello directs local actors in Douglas Post's thriller about a naive poet and librarian who hires a private investigator to solve her lover's murder. "*Earth and Sky* is a case of film noir on stage," says a *New York Times* critic, "hard-bitten but with a tinge of sentiment" and "a healthy measure of skepticism and humor." Stars Natalie Holbrook and Schuyler Lee. *8 p.m., AACT Studio, 322 W. Ann. Tickets $10 & $15 in advance and at the door. 971–2228.*

"Evita": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

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For more details about the study, contact and IRB information, or to take the survey, please visit:
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Note: Educational documentaries are listed with the daily Events.

Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. *Feb. 27:* **"What Dreams May Come"** (Vincent Ward, 1998). Drama about the lives and afterlives of a grieving couple after the loss of their children. Robin Williams, Annabella Sciorra. Followed by discussion. FREE. 994–3387. Jewel Heart (1129 Oak Valley Dr. just south of Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.), 7 p.m.

M-Flicks. FREE. 763–1107. U-M Natural Science Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Feb. 5: **"Vertigo"** (Alfred Hitchcock, 1958). Haunting, dreamlike mystery thriller that stars James Stewart as a retired police detective who is afraid of heights. Kim Novak.

Feb. 13: **"10 Things I Hate About You"** (Gil Junger, 1999). Teen comedy, loosely based on Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, about a younger sister who can't date until her older, bitchier sister does.

Feb. 27: **"Se7en"** (David Fincher, 1995). Thriller about two cops, one new and one about to retire, who investigate a serial killer using the seven deadly sins as his MO. Brad Pitt, Morgan Freeman.

Michigan Theater Foundation. Unless there is a live show in the main theater, 2 or 3 different films are shown, usually more than once each, almost every night. For complete, updated schedules, see michtheater.org or call 668–TIME. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): $9 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $7; MTF members, $6.50). Michigan Theater, times TBA unless otherwise noted.

Jan. 30–Feb. 5: **"Che"** (Steven Soderbergh, 2008). Biopic starring Benicio Del Toro as the controversial Argentinean revolutionary Ernest "Che" Guevara.

Feb. dates TBA: **"Oscar Shorts Program"** (various directors, 2008). Several Academy Award–nominated live action and animated short films. **"I've Loved You So Long"** (Philippe Claudel, 2008). Drama starring Kristin Scott-Thomas as a shell-shocked woman who returns to her family after 15 years in prison. French, subtitles. **"Let the Right One In"** (Tomas Alfredson, 2008). Romantic thriller about a bullied boy and his one friend, a peculiar girl who turns out to be a vampire. Swedish, subtitles. **"Waltz with Bashir"** (Ari Folman, 2008). Animated memoir of the director's experience as an Israeli soldier in the 1982 Lebanon War. Hebrew, German, English; subtitles.

Feb. 2: **"Modern Times"** (Charlie Chaplin, 1936). This memorable satire of the machine age is Chaplin's last silent film.

Feb. 7: **"Empress Chung"** (Nelson Shin, 2005). Animated fantasy based on a Korean folktale about a young princess who sacrifices herself to save her father's eyesight. Sponsored by the U-M Center for Korean Studies. Korean, subtitles. FREE. 2 p.m.

Feb. 8: **"Three Stooges Shorts"** (various directors). Seven of Moe, Larry, and Curley's slapstick comedies, including *Punch Drunks, Who Done It, Woman Haters, Gents Without Cents, All the World's a Stooge*, and others. Kids age 12 & under, FREE. 1:30 p.m. **"Dalai Lama Renaissance"** (Khashyar Darvich, 2007). Screening of this multi-award-winning documentary, narrated by Harrison Ford, about a gathering convened by the Association for Global New Thought with the Dalai Lama in 1999 at the Norbulingka Institute in Dharamsala, India. Followed by remarks by Jewel Heart Buddhist Center director **Gehlek Rimpoche.** 4:10 p.m.

Feb. 14: **"Guys and Dolls"** (Joseph Mankiewicz, 1955). Marlon Brando, Frank Sinatra, Jean Simmons, and Vivian Blain star in a film adaptation of the Damon Runyan–Frank Loesser musical.

Feb. 16: **"A Night at the Opera"** (Sam Wood, 1935). The Marx Brothers invade the rarefied world of opera and turn it on its head.

Feb. 23: **"His Girl Friday"** (Howard Hawks, 1940). Comedy about a Chicago newspaper editor who goes to screwball lengths to keep his ex-wife—an ace reporter—from remarrying. Cary Grant, Rosalind Russell.

St. Thomas Lutheran Church. **"Family Movie Night."** FREE. Refreshments. 663–7511. St. Thomas, 10001 Ellsworth (west of Parker). 7 p.m.

Feb. 7: **"Horton Hears a Who!"** (Jimmy Hayward & Steve Martino, 2008). Animated comedy based on Dr. Seuss's book about an elephant who responds to a cry for help from a microscopic community.

U-M Center for Chinese Studies Documentary Film Series. FREE. 764–6308. Angell Hall Auditorium A, 7 p.m.

Feb. 14: **"Up the Yangtze"** (Yung Chang, 2008). Breathtaking exploration of the wrenching changes facing an increasingly globalized China viewed through the microcosm of life on a luxury liner journeying up the Yangtze. English, Mandarin, & Sichuan dialect; subtitles.

Feb. 28: **"China Upside Down"** (Freddy Coppens, 2008). Profile of several families who have risen from subsistence to luxury since the introduction of capitalism to China. Mandarin, subtitles.

U-M Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library. FREE. 615–3194. Hatcher Library Gallery, Room 100. 7 p.m.

Feb. 18: **"Queen of Outer Space"** (Edward Bernds, 1958). Campy sci-fi flick starring Zsa Zsa Gabor as a despotic Venusian queen who imprisons the American astronauts who made the first human trip to the all-female planet.

U-M Japanese Animation Film Society. Feb. 14: "Animania." Monthly anime-a-thon of feature films and episodes from TV seris. This month: feature films and TV series TBA. Raffle. U-M campus admission policy: No one under 18 admitted without an adult. FREE. umich.edu/~animania. MLB, 812 E. Washington at Thayer, 10 a.m.–midnight.

WCBN-FM. FREE admission. 763–3500. Arbor Brewing Company (114 E. Washington), 9 p.m. *Feb. 11:* **"Devo: The Men Who Make the Music"** (Mark Mothersbaugh & Chuck Statler, 1981). Devo's early music videos and live performances from a 1978 tour are interspliced with the pioneering art-punk band's 1975 art school film project, an anti-music-industry satire.

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"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

"A Rosswork Orange: B-School Follies": U-M Business School. *Feb. 6 & 7.* Musical comedy revue by U-M business school students. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $20 in advance at the Business School Executive Residence Lounge and at the door. 668–8397.*

D. C. Malone: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 5 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Nas: EMU Convocation Center. The son of jazz musician Olu Dara, Nas is the stage name of Nasis Jones, a veteran New York City hip-hop MC known for a verbal dexterity at once street-smart and highly literate and a righteously self-empowered, often recklessly confrontational swagger. Opening acts are the acclaimed Detroit hip-hop MC **Royce Da 5'9",** Detroit hip-hop MC **Johnny Saxx,** and the Ypsilanti hip-hop ensemble **Street Justice.** *8:30 p.m., EMU Convocation Center, 799 N. Hewitt (north off Washtenaw), Ypsilanti. Tickets $35–$90 in advance at the EMU Convocation Center and at the door. 487–2282.*

"Friday Night Swing": Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association. *Every Fri.* Swing dancing to prerecorded music. No partner needed. Bring hard-soled shoes. Preceded at 8 p.m. by beginning lessons. *8:45–11:45 p.m., Dakota Bldg., 1785 W. Stadium. $5 (includes lessons; students, $3). 972–9141, 417–9857.*

★Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society. *Feb. 6 & 20.* All invited to peer through the telescopes in the observatory and on the Angell Hall roof and to view shows in the planetarium. Also, Student Astronomy Society members give short presentations on a variety of astronomy topics. *9–11 p.m., 5th floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (from the large State St. entrance, take one of the elevators on the left to the 5th floor). Free. 764–3440.*

7 SATURDAY

Bird Hike: Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck leads a hike to look for birds and record their locations. Bring binoculars and a field guide. *8 a.m., park activity center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. Preregistration required. $4 vehicle entrance fee. 426–8211.*

★"The Story of Stuff": Gray Panthers of Huron Valley. Screening of environmental health activist Annie Leonard's 20-minute 2007 DVD about the origin and true costs of the consumer-driven culture that began after WW II. Discussion follows. Refreshments. The program begins with coffee & socializing. *9:45 a.m.–noon, U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 973–5593.*

"Sciencepalooza": Hands-On Museum. *Feb. 7 & 8.* A popular monthly exhibit in the concourse area with hands-on experiments and activities. This month's program: **"Coffee, Tea, & Chocolate."** *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Feb. 7) & noon–4 p.m. (Feb. 8), Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. $8 (members & infants, free) regular admission. 995–5439.*

★"Heirloom Garden Series": Project Grow. *Feb. 7 & 21.* Part of a series of biweekly programs presented by Project Grow instructors. Today: Joan and Richard Bailey explain how to **"Build Your Own Hoop House."** Also this month: Royer Held discusses **"Organic Gardening"** (Feb. 21). *10 a.m.–noon, Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. Free; donation appreciated. 996–3169.*

★"Saturday Morning Physics": U-M Physics Department. *Feb. 7 & 14.* Popular series of talks, aimed at general audiences, by U-M faculty and local physics experts. Today: physics professor Timothy McKay on **"400 Years of Cosmic Discovery: Celebrating the International Year of Astronomy."** Also this month: astronomy professor Ted Bergin on **"How Earth Got Its Water"** (Feb. 14). *10–11:30 a.m., 170 Dennison, 500 Church. Free. 764–4437.*

★Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble. *Every Sat.* Storytelling programs and occasional craft activities for kids. On Feb. 28, Norman Bridwell's **Clifford the Big Red Dog** makes a visit. *10 a.m. (Feb. 7) & 11 a.m. (Feb. 14, 21, & 28), Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★Remote-Controlled Car Racing: Washtenaw RC Raceway. *Feb. 7 & 21.* One of the largest regular gatherings of RC racers in the country features off-road dirt-track racing for stock and modified model electric trucks and buggies. Spectators welcome. Food concessions. *10:30 a.m. (doors open at 8 a.m.)-midnight, Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free admission. $16 to race. (313) 565–2815.*

★Storytime: Nicola's Books. *Every Sat.* Storytelling program for kids under age 7. *11 a.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. *Every Sat. & Sun. except Feb. 1.* Four different audiovisual planetarium shows. ***The Sky Tonight*** (11:30 a.m. Sat. only & 1:30 p.m. both days) is an exploration of the current night sky. ***Black Holes*** (12:30 p.m. Sat.) is an animated show that begins with the formation of the early Universe and the birth and death of stars and concludes with a simulated flight to a supermassive black hole lurking at the center of the Milky Way. ***Hubble Vision*** (2:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual show about the discoveries made by the Hubble Space Telescope. *11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, & 2:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. $4.75. 764–0478.*

Draw Doubles: Local 101 Disc Golf Club. *Every Sat.* All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24–hole disc golf courses. Beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free from the Hudson Mills Metropark office. *Noon, Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $5 per player; free for spectators. $4 vehicle entrance fee. 449–4300.*

★"Midwest Hip-Hop Summit": U-M 23rd Annual MLK Symposium. See 6 Friday. Today's highlights include a screening of an episode of the 2007 hip-hop TV documentary series *4Real* with an appearance by its creator **Sol Guy** (noon), a panel discussion on **"Completing the Cypher: the Shifting Energy in Hip Hop and Broader Society"** (3–4:15 p.m.), and a U-Club concert featuring the Chicago hip-hop group **Fifth Element Warriors,** the Colorado Springs hip-hop duo **the ReMINDers,** California rappers **DLabrie** and **Shamako,** Philadelphia rapper **Alex Schein,** and others (9 p.m.–midnight). Free. Noon–midnight.

U-M Men's Gymnastics vs. Illinois-Chicago. *1 p.m., Crisler Arena, S. State at Hoover. $3 (youths age 12 & under, $1; U-M students, free). 763–2159.*

★"Log Cabin Craft": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades K–5 invited to make a log cabin using pencils, paper, glue, and cardboard. Younger kids may need help from an adult caregiver. *1–2:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

Victorian Valentine Tea: Kempf House Museum. *Feb. 7 & 8.* An elegant, traditional tea served on the

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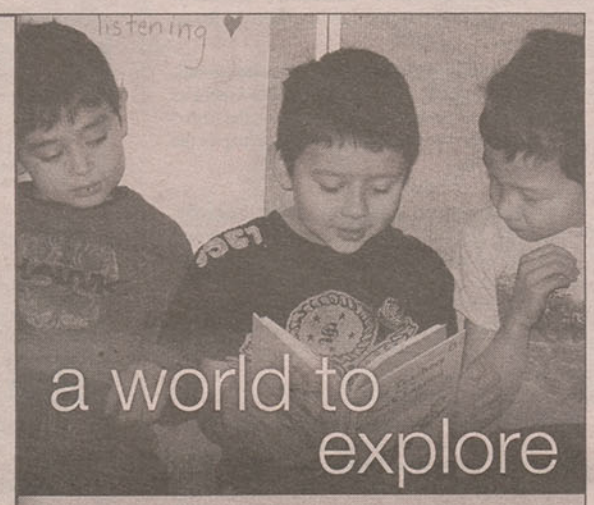

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Kempf House's antique silver service. The menu also includes a selection of sweets and savories. Period attire welcome. This popular annual event usually sells out well in advance. *1:30 & 3:30 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. $20. Reservations required. 994–4898.*

★**"All About Skulls!": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner discusses animal skulls. Followed by a skull scavenger hunt. Bring found skulls for identification and/or show and tell, if you wish. *2–3:30 p.m., Independence Lake County Park Beach Center, 3200 Jennings (north off North Territorial), Webster Twp. Free. $5 vehicle entry fee. 971–6337, ext 334.*

"Polar Plunge": Special Olympics Michigan. Brave costumed swimmers plunge through a hole in the ice at Whitmore Lake for prizes. All invited to give it a try or just watch. Also, food, a beer tent, a DJ, and more. Proceeds benefit Special Olympics athletes in Washtenaw and Livingston counties. Registration for plungers begins at 1 p.m. *2 p.m., Mac's Marina, 9876 Main St., Whitmore Lake. $50. 222–8283.*

★**Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club.** *Every Sat.* All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. Indoor location TBA in case of inclement weather. *2–4 p.m., U-M Diag. Free. 761–1115.*

★**Waterloo Recreation Area.** *Feb. 7 & 28.* Programs presented by WRA park interpreter Kathy Kavanaugh unless otherwise noted. Today: **"Is It a Bird? A Plane? No, It's an Iceboat!"** Veteran iceboat builder Mel Nichols discusses how to build one. Also, display of a vintage 1960s *Detroit News* iceboat. Also this month: **"Winter Orienteering"** (Feb. 28), a hike to learn to find your way through the woods in winter. Compass provided. *2 p.m. (Feb. 7) & 1 p.m. (Feb. 28), Eddy Discovery Center, Bush Rd., Chelsea. Free. 475–3170.*

★**"Imbolc Ritual": Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to celebrate this ancient Celtic late winter festival of light and the earth's hidden fertility that honors the hearth goddess Brid. Also, potluck (bring a dish to pass) and raffle. Preceded by a hearth-fire kindling rite at 7 p.m. on Feb. 6 at 11623 Lisa Lori Ln., South Lyon. *2–5 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. Free. 262–1052.*

"Dreaming a Place: Environmental Dance": Nightfire Dance Theater. Nightfire director Irena Nagler leads a session of environmental dancing in an outdoor setting, accompanied by music and other sound, visual art, and poetry. Participants should bring anything needed for protection from the elements. No experience necessary. Warm beverages provided, but feel free to bring your own to share. *2 p.m., Island Park, 1540 Island Dr. off Maiden Lane between Broadway & Fuller. $5–$20 sliding scale. 996–1772.*

★**Capoeira Mandinga Michigan: Ann Arbor District Library.** Members of this local troupe introduce capoeira, a Brazilian martial art dance that was first developed by 17th-century African slaves. *2–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**U-M Women's Swimming & Diving vs. Notre Dame.** *3 p.m., Canham Natatorium, Hoover at S. Division. Free. 764–0247.*

★**Cooking Demos: Morgan & York.** *Every Sat.* A Morgan & York staffer demonstrates **chocolate fondue** (Feb. 7 & 14) and **winter risotto** (Feb. 21 & 28). Tastings. Preceded at 2 p.m. by **wine talks** (Feb. 7, 14, & 21). *3–4 p.m., Morgan & York, 1928 Packard. Free. 662–0798.*

★**"Goblin War": Arborland Borders.** Michigan writer **Jim Hines** is on hand to sign copies of his new fantasy novel about a courageous goblin outcast who reluctantly fights to save his lair. *3 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 665–8194.*

★**Kids Open Stage: Oz's Music Environment.** Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. Preceded at 3 p.m. by a **kids drum circle** ($10) hosted by Oz's owner Steve Osburn. Drums provided. *4–5 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. Free; donations welcome. 662–8283.*

★**In Good Company African American Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion of President Obama's ***Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance.*** *4 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**Malaysian Culture Night: U-M Malaysian Students Association.** U-M Malaysian students perform dances from various Malaysian cultures. Also, Malaysian, Peranakan, Chinese, and Indian food. *6–10 p.m., East Hall Psychology Atrium, 530 Church. Free. 764–4568.*

"Sao Paulo Soiree: 24th Annual Mardi Gras Celebration": WCC Fund-Raiser. This Mardi Gras-themed evening kicks off with music by jazz guitarist John Lawrence and a sumptuous South American feast created by the WCC culinary arts and hospitality department and several guest chefs, including Zingerman's Roadhouse chef Alex Young, Barton Hills Country Club chef Bill Collins, Opus One (Detroit) chef Dave Rensi, Via Nove (Ferndale) chef Joseph Beato, and Campus Inn chef Dan Tesin. Followed by dancing to the salsa band **Orquesta Saoco** and a parade of chefs, students, and volunteers that always gets a standing ovation. Guests are encouraged to come in masks or formal dress. *6:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $25–$175 in advance only. 973–3665.*

21st Annual "Big Rack Night." This very popular annual contest for white-tailed deer hunters attracts more than 400 people. The top 12 award winners in the firearms, archery, muzzle loading, ladies, and youth divisions are invited to go onstage, display their antlers, and swap hunting stories. Also, talks by guest speakers with unusual or outstanding racks. Additional overall prize for "biggest rack" (number, size, and mass of points on the 2 horns). Light dinner available. *7 p.m. (doors open 5 p.m.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free admission. 439–7919.*

15th Annual Hometown Concert: Saline Fiddlers. Traditional American fiddle songs, bluegrass, and high-energy American folk by this renowned touring fiddle ensemble of 30 students. Tonight's headliners are **Seth Bernard & Daisy May,** a singer-songwriter duo from mid-Michigan that balances Bernard's clever, funny, candidly insightful folk-, rock-, and jazz-based songs with May's richly emotional country-flavored songs. Fiddlers shows always sell out, so get tickets early. *7 p.m., Saline Middle School, 7190 N. Maple, Saline. Tickets $15 & $20 in advance at salinefiddlers.com and (if available) at the door. (866) 257–5333.*

★**"8th Annual Dance on Camera Festival": U-M Dance Department.** *Feb. 7 & 8 (different locations).* Screening of a video of a juried selection of videodance works from around the world featured in the recent 36th Annual Dance on Camera Festival at Lincoln Center in New York. Videodance is a hybrid art form that combines the dynamics of dance and the moving body with film/video editing and direction, animation, and computer technology. This year's compilation is highlighted by Joby Emmons's video of Russian choreographer Elena Demyanenko's *Kino-Eye,* which shadows a dancer, immersed in an aesthetic of video surveillance, as she moves through contemporary Moscow, and David Farias's video of Argentine choreographer Maria Fernanda Vallejos's *Propiedad Horizontal,* which presents dancers in a narrow passageway to create an elegant, abstract, and lively piece of pure movement and form. *7–9 p.m., Palmer Commons Forum Hall, 100 Washtenaw. Free. 647–2288.*

★**"Freshman Directors Showcase" and "Night of the Fights": U-M Basement Arts.** See 5 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Reefer Madness": EMU Theater Department. See 6 Friday. 7 p.m.

"Chocolate Crush": Wild Swan Theater. Fancy chocolate treats from local chocolate makers, appetizers, a variety of wines, and chocolate martinis. Also, silent and live auctions and a raffle for diamonds. Proceeds benefit Wild Swan, an acclaimed local children's theater troupe. *7:30 p.m., Vintage to Vogue, Kerrytown, 407 N. Fifth Ave. Tickets $60–$125 in advance and at the door. 995–0530.*

"Rat-a-Tap Tap!": Sole Full of Rhythm. See 5 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

"Annie Get Your Gun": Burns Park Players 26th Annual Production. See 6 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"The Laramie Project": Huron High Players. See 6 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

1st Saturday Contra: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Carol Jacobs calls to music by Marty Somberg & Friends. No partner needed; all dances taught. Wear cool, casual clothes and flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. Also, a free open jam for string and other musicians, 3–6 p.m. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $9 (members, $8; students, $5). 769–1052.*

★**EMU Symphony Orchestra: EMU Music Department.** Kevin Miller conducts this music-student orchestra in a performance of Khachaturian's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra featuring violinist **Jenny Wan,** winner of the EMU concerto competition. Also, Glinka's *Russlan and Ludmilla Overture* and Tchaikovsky's Symphony no. 6. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**Aaron Berofsky & Edward Parmentier: U-M School of Music.** Violinist Berofsky and harpsichordist Parmentier, both U-M music professors, play works by Handel, Bach, and Couperin. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

"International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella Quarter Finals": U-M Amazin' Blue. Midwest student a cappella groups perform for the chance to advance to the ICCA semifinals. Competing groups include U-M 58 Greene, U-M Dicks and Janes, U-M Gimble, Bowling Green State University HeeBeeBGs, Oberlin College Obertones, CMU On the Rox, MSU Accafellas, and University of Minnesota 7 Days. U-M Amazin' Blue performs as the judges deliberate. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. $15 (students without ID & seniors, $10; students with ID, $8). (248) 444–2544.*

Lawrence Brownlee: University Musical Society. This award-winning tenor—widely regarded as an up-and-coming opera star—attributes his vocal flexibility to his gospel roots. "His tone light and poised, his timbre sweet, Brownlee sailed through the bel canto stratosphere . . . with elegant ease," says an *Opera* critic of a recent performance. Program: Duparc's "Chanson Triste," Rossini's "Languir per una bella," 3 Liszt sonnets, Donizetti's "Ah, mes amis, quel jour de fete," John Carter's Cantata, and Mozart's "Misero! O sogno o son desto?" Accompanist is Martin Katz. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$50 in advance at the Michigan League and ums.org, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

"Mad Lib Puppet Show": Dreamland Theater. *Feb. 7, 14, & 21.* Dreamland puppeteers perform a puppet show on the fly after audience members suggest words to fill in blanks in the script. *8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington St. Ypsilanti. $5. 657–2337.*

"Evita": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 5 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

One-Act Plays: Greenhills School Voodoo Theater Company. See 6 Friday. 8 p.m.

"The Grapes of Wrath": Blackbird Theatre. See 6 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Earth and Sky": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 6 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"A Rosswork Orange: B-School Follies": U-M Business School. See 6 Friday. 8 p.m.

D. C. Malone: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 5 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Serious about Salsa" Latin Dance Party: danceRevolution Dance Studio. *Feb. 7 & 21.* High-energy dance party with salsa, merengue, bachata, and cha-cha dancing to recorded music spun by a DJ. No partner necessary. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., danceRevolution, 1785 W. Stadium. $5. 945–8428.*

★**"Milonga Picante": Michigan Argentine Tango Club.** *Feb. 7 & 21.* Tango dancing to recorded music. *Note:* People not affiliated with the U-M must arrive before 9 p.m. *9 p.m.–1:30 a.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Room (Feb. 7) & Michigan Union Pendleton Room (Feb. 21). Free. 973–2338.*

Singles Dance: Parents Without Partners. *Feb. 7, 20, & 28.* All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by DJ John Brown. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. Preceded at 8 p.m. by free dance lessons. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $8 (PWP members, $6). 433–1668.*

8 SUNDAY

★**Tu B'Shevat Celebration: Jewish Cultural Society.** All invited to celebrate the Jewish "New Year of the Trees." Activities include a performance by the popular veteran local acoustic folk duo **Gemini,** along with storytelling, craft activities, environmental projects, a walking Seder, and the popular Matthaei conservatory scavenger hunt. *10 a.m.–noon, U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 975–9872.*

★**"Chesstastic!": Ann Arbor District Library.** Everyone from kindergartners to adults invited to play chess. Chess sets provided. *1–4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**Hybridizing Roses: Huron Valley Rose Society.** Talk by Downriver Rose Society (Brownstown) member Michael Gleason. *2 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 277–0112.*

★**"Hike Across the Wetlands": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike to look at wetland flora and fauna. Wear boots. *2–4 p.m., Devine Preserve, north side of Liberty Rd., ½ mile west of Zeeb Rd. Free. 971–6337, ext. 334.*

★**Tu B'Shevat Celebration: Temple Beth Emeth/Jewish Hikers of Michigan.** A nature walk, games, songs, and more to celebrate this Jewish holiday honoring trees, nature, and the environment. *2–4 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. Free. Reservations required. 665–4744.*

★**"Family Affairs: Intermarriage and Jewish Parents in Historical Perspective": Jewish Family Services.** Talk by U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies research fellow Keren McGinity, author of *Still Jewish: A History of Women and Intermarriage in America.* All invited. *2–4 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 769–0209.*

★**"Soaring Stories": Ann Arbor District Library.** Veteran local storyteller Laura Pershin Raynor tells a story for preschoolers through 5th-graders that is brought to life by dancers from the Ann Arbor Civic Ballet. Audience participation encouraged. *2–3 p.m.,*

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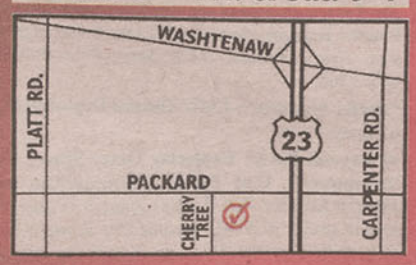

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AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.

★**Friends of Four-Hand Piano.** Pianists of all abilities invited to bring their music for a casual afternoon of performing duets. An opportunity to meet other pianists and find partners for 4–hand and 2–piano music. Listeners welcome. *2 p.m., location TBA. Free. 971–6261, 485–5007.*

★**Shape Note Singing: The Ark/Ann Arbor Sacred Harp.** All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Songbooks available, but singers are encouraged to bring their own. *2–5 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free, but donations accepted for music scholarships. 747–9644, 761–1451.*

★**"Geological History of the Pittsfield Area": Pittsfield Township Historical Society.** Slide-illustrated talk by retired local science teacher and Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee member John Russell. *2 p.m., Pittsfield Community Center, 701 W. Ellsworth Rd. Free. 434–4074.*

★**"Albert Herring": Ann Arbor District Library.** U-M music professor Robert Swedberg, a former director of the Orlando and Syracuse operas, discusses the upcoming U-M production in March of Benjamin Britten's comic opera. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"The Lincolns and the Dodworth Saxhorn Band": U-M Ford Presidential Library.** In honor of Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday, professional reenactors Fred and Bonnie Priebe portray Honest Abe and Mary Todd Lincoln in period costume. With rousing 19th-century music by the Dodworth Saxhorn Band, an award-winning Ypsilanti ensemble that plays period instruments to re-create the American brass band, a mainstay of 19th-century pop culture. The ensemble is based on the original Dodworth Band of New York City, the premier brass band in the U.S. from 1840 to 1880. *2 p.m., Ford Library, 1000 Beal. Free. 205–0555.*

"The Spirit of Harriet Tubman": Wild Swan Theater. See 4 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"Earth and Sky": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 6 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Sunday. 2 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 2 p.m.

"Evita": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 5 Thursday. 3 & 7 p.m.

★**"Keep Me in Your Heart a While: The Haunting Zen of Dainin Katagiri": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room Salon.** Minnesota-based Zen priest **Dosho Port,** a disciple of the late Minnesota Zen Center founder Katagiri, discusses his new book. Signing. *3 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757, 665–9160.*

"Reefer Madness": EMU Theater Department. See 6 Friday. 3 p.m.

★**"Beyond Earth: Exploring Outer Space! Planet Adventures": U-M Exhibit Museum/Ann Arbor District Library.** *Feb. 8 & 28 (different locations).* All kids in grades K–5 (accompanied by an adult) invited to learn how to read star maps, identify constellations, make a sundial, and more. *3–4 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. Preregistration required. 764–0480.*

Children's Puppet Shows: Dreamland Theater. See 1 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

Community Drum Circle: Arts in Motion Dance Studio. All invited to join a group drumming session led by certified drum circle facilitator Don Allen. Bring your own drum, or use one of Arts in Motion's. *4–5:30 p.m., Arts in Motion, 2841 Boardwalk. $5 per person. Reservations requested. 222–6246.*

★**Rainbow Book Club.** All invited to discuss ***Written on the Body,*** Jeanette Winterson's novel with an ambiguously gendered narrator who seduces a married woman. *4:30–6 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 763–4168.*

★**"Booked for Murder" Mystery Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss 2 novels about death by poison. Dorothy Sayers's ***Strong Poison*** is about a mystery novelist suspected of murder when her husband is poisoned like a character in one of her books. Charles Finch's ***A Beautiful Blue Death,*** set in 1865 England, tells the story of a gentleman sleuth who suspects homicide in a servant girl's supposed suicide by poisoning. *4:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 769–2149.*

5th Annual Gala and Auction: Pioneer High School Band. A Mardi Gras-themed evening, with live and silent auctions, an hors d'oeuvre buffet, a raffle, and a performance by the band. Cash bar. Proceeds benefit the band. *4:30–6:30 p.m., Four Points by Sheraton, 3200 Boardwalk. Tickets $30 in advance at aapioneerbands.org and at the door. 996–3210.*

★**"Theology on Tap": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Outreach Committee.** All invited to join an informal discussion of social, theological, and political issues. Tonight: Growing Hope director Amanda Edmonds discusses **"Growing Hope,"** a nonprofit that helps people improve their lives and communities through gardening. Followed by discussion. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by socializing. *7 p.m., Arbor Brewing, 116 E. Washington. Free. 663–0518.*

★**"8th Annual Dance on Camera Festival": U-M Dance Department**. See 7 Saturday. *7–9 p.m., U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Dance Studio, 1310 North University Ct. Free. 647–2288.*

★**"Shiite International in Global Islam Today": St. Clare's Episcopal Church/Temple Beth Emeth.** Talk by U-M Middle East and South Asian history professor **Juan Cole** (see 18 Wednesday). *7:30 p.m., St. Clare's/TBE, 2309 Packard at Eastover. Free. 662–2449.*

★**Jeffrey Lyman, Donald Sinta, and Ana Otamendi: U-M School of Music.** Bassoonist Lyman and saxophonist Sinta, both U-M music professors, are joined by U-M music student Otamendi to perform works inspired by Andy Warhol, Mick Jagger, George Bush, and several prisoners. Program: Marguerite Roesgen-Champion's Concerto no. 2, David Gompper's *Kuta Muela,* Paul Moravec's *Andy Warhol Sez,* Alfonso Fuentes's *Mejunje del Fagobongo,* and P. D. Q. Bach's Sonata for Bassoon and Piano. *8 p.m., U-M music school Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

9 MONDAY

★**"Recycling Behavior among Urban South Africans: The Role of Race and Social Status": U-M Population Studies Center.** Talk by U-M sociology professor Barbara Anderson and U-M public health professor emeritus John Romani. Bring a bag lunch. *Noon, 6050 ISR, 426 Thompson. Free. 998–7275.*

★**"Clearing the Air? The Effect of Gasoline Content Regulation on Urban Air Quality": U-M Erb Institute.** Talk by U-M economics professor Ryan Kellogg. *Noon–1:30 p.m., 1028 Dana, 430 East University. Free. 647–9799.*

★**Movie Matinee: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Feb. 9 & 23.* Screening of a film TBA. Lunch available

($2.50). *12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★"Latex and Blood: Toward a Visual Economy of Science, Commerce, and American Empire": U-M International Institute Science, Technology, & Society Program. Talk by University of Wisconsin medical history and history of science professor Gregg Mittman, author of *Breathing Space: How Allergies Shape Our Lives and Landscapes. 4–5:30 p.m., 1014 Tisch, 435 S. State. Free. 647–3766.*

★"Michigan's Economy in 2009 and Beyond": U-M School of Public Policy. Panel discussion with Michigan Board of Education vice-president John Austin, MSU economics professor Charles Ballard, Center for Automotive Research automotive communities program director Kim Hill, and National Governors Association economic development program director Christopher Hayter. Moderated by U-M public policy professor Paul Courant. *4–5:30 p.m., 1120 Weill Hall, 735 S. State at Hill. Free. 615–3893.*

★"Fighting the Mafia and Renewing Sicilian Culture": U-M Center for European Studies "Conversations on Europe." Talk by Italian MP **Leoluca Orlando,** a former Palermo mayor and anti-Mafia activist. *4–6 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647–2743.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Penn State. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

★"Color Energy: Reflection of Our Inner Life": Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild. Talk by local color consultant and silk painter **Victoria Silks.** Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by socializing. *7 p.m. Gretchen's House Learning Center, 2340 Oak Valley Dr. Free. 665–0703.*

★Patricia Briggs: Waters Place Borders. This Washington novelist reads from ***Bone Crossed,*** her new fantasy about a shape-shifting car mechanic who travels between the natural and supernatural realms. Signing. *7 p.m., Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

★"Of Human Bonding": U-M English Department Lecture Series. *Feb. 9 & 16.* Lectures by U-M faculty. Today: Afroamerican and African studies professor Michael Awkward on **"The History of Race."** Also this month: law professor Richard Primus on **"Race and the Law"** (Feb. 16). *7–9 p.m., U-M Natural Sciences Auditorium, 830 North University. Free. 769–0500.*

★"How Far We Have Come, How Far We Have to Go": National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Washtenaw County. Talk by Washtenaw Community Health Organization director Kathleen Reynolds. *7:30–9:30 p.m., St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Free. 994–6611.*

★"Nonphilatelic Hobbies": Ann Arbor Stamp Club. Club members display and discuss their hobbies besides stamp collecting. Also, a mini stamp auction and American Philatelic Society circuit books. *7:30 p.m., Salvation Army, 100 Arbana (park & enter at the rear of the building). Free admission. 761–5859.*

The Pretenders: Live Nation. One of the most durably influential of the bands to emerge in the late-70s/early-80s postpunk New Wave, the Pretenders are known for their lean, edgy guitar-based rock 'n' roll and for frontwoman Chrissie Hynde's throaty alto, at once sweet and caustic, and for her iconoclastic lyrical sensibility. The band's acclaimed new CD *Break Up the Concrete* is a collection of country-inflected roots-rock originals, many of them reflecting on the demise of Hynde's native Akron. *7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $45 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

10 TUESDAY

★Plants, Animals, and Habitats in Washtenaw County Parks Natural Areas": Good Thyme Garden Club. Talk by WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner. *10 a.m., Saline District Library, 555 N. Maple Rd., Saline. Free. 663–8577.*

"Economic Growth: Some Lessons and Some Reflections": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Distinguished Lecture Series. Lecture by U-M Ford School of Public Policy dean Susan Collins. 7th in a series of 9 monthly lectures. *10:30–11:30 a.m., Best Western Executive Conference Center, 2900 Jackson Rd. $50 (members, $35) for the 9-lecture series. Memberships are $15 a year. Preregistration required. 998–9351.*

★"Portraits of Homelessness": U-M School of Social Work. Local photographer Joan Kadri Zald discusses homelessness and her experience photographing homeless people. *11 a.m., 1840 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 763–6886.*

★"The Changing Face of Armenia: Language, Culture, Religion, and Minorities since Independence": U-M Armenian Studies Program. Talk by University of Salzburg linguistics professor Jasmine Dum-Tragut. *4 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 763–0622.*

★"American Buffalo: In Search of a Lost Icon": U-M Residential College. Michigan-born *Outside* magazine correspondent **Steven Rinella** discusses his memoir about his experiences as 1 of 24 winners of a

Community-wide

TU B'SHEVAT CELEBRATION

AT THE MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS

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10:30 & 11:30

STORYTELLING
Judy Schmidt -11:00

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WORKSHOPS
Recycle Ann Arbor-10:30
Sustainable Gardening-11:00
Green Architecture-11:30

The JCS Tu B'Shevat celebration focuses on the historical, cultural, and ecological elements of the holiday and includes activities for both children and adults.

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classic country

Charlie Louvin

Rediscovered

Charlie Louvin was one half of the Louvin Brothers, almost the last in classic country music's sequence of great brother duets. They came on the scene in the late 1940s with a truculent brand of gospel harmony singing ("That word *broad-minded* is spelled S-I-N") that nevertheless doesn't offend even the nonbeliever today. Their music has a hardcore quality, with great harmony-vocal artistry. The Louvins' songs about the evils of alcohol rang true even before Charlie's brother, Ira, was killed by a drunk driver in 1965. And many of their songs, with lugubrious recitations in the middle, had an over-the-top quality that culminated in the notorious *Satan Is Real* LP cover of 1959, with the brothers standing in front of a twelve-foot plywood devil, fangs, pitchfork, and all, glowing orange in the light cast by what Charlie later explained was a tire fire.

Still and all, sponsors explained to the Louvins that gospel music wouldn't sell tobacco, and they recorded some secular songs that, almost without exception, became country classics. The brothers said they despised rock 'n' roll, but the precise harmonies of "Cash on the Barrelhead" found their way around the sharp corners of a suppressed fascination with it. Most of their secular records were slow numbers—sentimental story songs or exquisite tales of unattainable love like "When I Stop Dreaming," always with nonpareil harmony singing, an art as quintessentially American as the blues.

After Ira's death, Charlie Louvin had some novelty country hits like "See the Big Man Cry" and became a fixture of the Grand Ole Opry. Now entering his ninth decade, he has recently been rediscovered by the staff of a New York label called Tompkins Square and has experienced a career revival that's lasted through several albums now. He's redone a few Louvin Brothers songs but has mostly reached back to the tragic ballads and classic gospel hymns that inspired the brothers in the first place. His weathered voice has a great conversational quality in a song like "Wreck of the Old 97."

I have a weakness for seeing octogenarian country performers, who just by the way they carry themselves on stage transmit volumes of information about what the live entertainment of the past was like. Louvin has recorded duets with the likes of Elvis Costello and Jeff Tweedy and has made some rather unlikely appearances in New York clubs. But the Green Wood United Methodist Church, where he'll be appearing on Friday, February 13, should be a more comfortable and authentic place for him. He's bringing a five-piece band.

—James M. Manheim

lottery to hunt buffalo in Alaska. *4 p.m., RC Auditorium East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 763–0176.*

"Traditional Cheese Fondue and Chocolate Fondue": Cranbrook Whole Foods Market. Lecture-demo by Whole Foods staff. Also this month, Whole Foods staff present free programs on **"Chocolate Dipping and Tempering"** (Feb. 11, 11 a.m.), **"Cooking with Brown Rice"** (Feb. 25, 1 p.m.), and **"Eat Well for Less"** (Feb. 27, 1 p.m.). *6 p.m., Whole Foods Lifestyle Center, Cranbrook Village shopping center, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy. $5. 997–7507.*

★Strategy Game Night: Tree Town Toys. All invited to play Carcassonne, Settlers of Catan, Puerto Rico, and other German-style board games. *6:30–8:30 p.m., Tree Town Toys, Traver Village, 2611 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration requested. 929–6545.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. MSU. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

★Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department. All age 21 & older invited to discuss ***The Norse Myths,*** Kevin Crossley-Holland's collection of retold classic Viking tales. *7–9 p.m., 3154 Angell Hall. Free. 764–2553.*

★Health Sessions: Washtenaw Whole Foods Market. *Feb. 10, 11, 18, 23, & 24.* Talks by Whole Foods staff and local health practitioners. Today: chiropractor Thomas Klapp on **"5 Things You Can Do Right Now to Be the Healthiest You've Ever Been."** Also this month: Whole Foods staffer Jill Brown on **"Libido"** (Feb. 11), acupuncturist Gary Merel on **"Systemic Enzymes: A Pathway to Health"** (Feb. 18), holistic health practitioner Cindy Klement on **"7 Basic Herbs for Your Medicine Chest"** (Feb. 23), and nutritionist Judy Stone on **"Gluten, Wheat, and Grain Intolerances"** (Feb. 24). *7 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration requested. 975–4500.*

★Sierra Club Book Club: Nicola's Books. All invited to discuss ***The Unnatural History of the Sea,*** Callum Roberts's denunciation of the fishing industry. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–1157.*

★Organ Faculty Recital: EMU Music Department. EMU organ professors **Scott Elsholz, Deborah Friauff,** and **James Wagner** collaborate in a varied program performed on the grand Alexander Memorial Organ. *7:30 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★Faculty Recital: U-M School of Music. An ensemble of U-M music professors plays Paul Schoenfield's Sonata for Clarinet and Piano, Dana Wilson's *Musings,* and Schubert's Octet in F-Major. Performers: pianist **Schoenfield,** clarinetist **Daniel Gilbert,** hornist **Adam Unsworth,** violist **Yizhak Schotten,** cellist **Mary Ann Ramos,** bassist **Diana Gannett,** bassoonist **Jeffrey Lyman,** and violinists **Yehonatan Berick** and **Gabriel Bolkosky.** *8 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

11 WEDNESDAY

★Group Drumming: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. All seniors invited to join music and health consultant Diane Baker for drumming and singing. Drums provided. *1:30–2:30 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★Radhika Coomaraswamy: U-M Center for the Education of Women. Talk by this UN under-secretary-general, special representative for children and armed conflict. *3:30 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater. Free. 764–6005.*

★"Working after Welfare: How Women Balance Jobs and Family in the Wake of Welfare Reform": U-M School of Public Policy. National Poverty Center assistant director Kristin Seefeldt discusses her forthcoming study of the effects of the Clinton welfare reforms. Reception follows. Signing. *4–5:30 p.m., 1120 Weill Hall, 735 S. State at Hill. Free. 615–3893.*

★"Astrobiology": U-M Exhibit Museum Science Cafe. Talks by U-M ecology and evolutionary biology professor Deborah Goldberg and U-M astronomy professor Ted Bergin. Followed by discussion. Preceded at 5:30 p.m. by free hors d'oeuvres. *6–7:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. Free. 764–0478.*

★**"Plants, Animals, and Habitats in Washtenaw County Parks Natural Areas": Wild Ones.** Talk by WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner. *6:45 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 622–9997.*

★**"Faces and Fragments: The Moral Image in Yoruba Culture": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by U-M art history professor David Doris. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Mistress of the Monarchy: The Life of Katherine Swynford, Duchess of Lancaster": Nicola's Books.** British novelist and historian **Alison Weir** discusses her new biography of Edward III's son's mistress and wife. Signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**"The China Price: The True Cost of Chinese Competitive Advantage": U-M Center for Chinese Studies.** Talk by former *Financial Times* South China correspondent **Alexandra Harney.** Preceded at 6 p.m. by a reception in Rackham Assembly Hall. *7 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater. Free. 764–6308.*

★**Fiction Readers Group: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion of ***What I Loved,*** Siri Hustvedt's dark, seductive tale about 2 intertwined New York intellectual families. Refreshments. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**"Small Dances about Big Ideas": Liz Lerman Dance Exchange.** This acclaimed Maryland-based contemporary dance company performs a dance-theater piece addressing genocide and the Nuremberg trials that includes spoken and recorded monologues. "Lerman and her dancers don't flinch from the unpleasant," says *All about Jewish Theatre* reviewer Lisa Traiger. "Autopsy-like duets, bodies that rattle and hang as if from gallows, and emotionally wrenching solos . . . lay bare personal adversities while an evocative soundscape unfurls, both lush and harshly realistic, ranging from symphonic violins to strafing fighter jets." *7 p.m., Michigan League Ballroom. Free. 769–0500.*

★**History Readers Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** Local retired social worker Myrna Lueck leads a discussion of ***IQ: A Smart History of a Failed Idea,*** Stephen Murdoch's history of intelligence testing. *7:30 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 369–2499.*

★**ARROW Communications Association.** Local radio amateur Bobby Corr discusses the current effort in Michigan to loosen zoning restrictions on radio amateurs. *7:30 p.m., Washtenaw County Red Cross, 4624 Packard. Free. 930–6564.*

★**Concert Band: U-M School of Music.** Rodney Dorsey conducts this music-student ensemble and guest trombonist David Jackson in Alton Adams's "The Governor's Own," U-M music professor Michael Daugherty's *Rosa Parks Boulevard,* Adolphus Hailstork's *American Guernica,* and Copland's *Lincoln Portrait.* The band is joined by tenor **George Shirley,** a U-M voice professor, in Ives's *Variations on "America"* and Donald Grantham's "Honey in the Rock." In celebration of Black History Month. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Every Wed except Feb. 4.* Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $5 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

12 THURSDAY

U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens Brown Bag Lecture Series. *Feb. 12 & 26.* Matthaei staff discuss **sustainable gardening and horticulture** (Feb. 12) and what they learned at the Stewardship Network **Restoring Native Ecosystems** conference (Feb. 26) that was held in Lansing in late January. *Noon–1 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. $3 (members, free). Preregistration requested. 647–7600.*

★**"Pulling Together for Nature: A Conversation about Conservation": Women's National Farm and Garden Association.** Talk by Stewardship Network director Lisa Brush. *12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free. 995–8441.*

"Flower Arranging": Ikebana International Chapter 183. Japanese ikebana expert Miki Shimomura leads the 2nd in a 4-month series of sessions of ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement. Call for instructions on equipment to bring. *1 p.m., University Commons, 817 Asa Gray Dr. (off Huron Pkwy.). $10 (members, $5) materials fee. (248) 685–7696.*

★**"Access Soapbox": Ann Arbor Community Television Network.** *Feb. 12 & 26.* A chance to express your views, discuss your activities, or announce upcoming events on the local public access station (cable channel 17). Participants are free to talk about anything they wish within CTN guidelines: no direct solicitation of funds, no lottery information, and no material that is obscene, defamatory, invasive of personal privacy, or infringing on copyrights or trademarks. Limited to 5 minutes, each segment features 1 or 2 speakers (with no more than 2 graphics) who talk directly to the camera. Production crew provided by CTN. *Access Soapbox* shows are aired daily for 1 week, beginning on Sunday. *3–6 p.m., CTN studio; 2805 South Industrial, suite 200. Free. Reservations required. 769–7422, ext. 1504.*

★**"Gobble Gobble Crash!": Concordia University.** Fort Wayne writer **Julie Stiegemeyer** reads from and discusses her new children's book about 4 turkeys who try to fly through the barnyard in the middle of the night. *4 p.m., Concordia University Earhart Manor, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Free. 995–7320.*

★**"The Rhetoric of Violence in Chinese Nationalism": U-M Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies.** Talk by Yale University history professor Peter Perdue. *4 p.m., Tisch Hall, 435 S. State St. Free. 764–6305.*

★**"U.S. Diplomacy, Civil Society, and Democracy in the Middle East and Europe": U-M Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies.** Panel discussion with former U.S. ambassador to Egypt Francis Ricciardone and former U.S. ambassador to Slovakia Ron Weiser. *4 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0351.*

★**"Public Art Then & Now: From the Strange to the Spectacular and Back Again": U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Lecture Series.** Talk by **Anne Pasternak,** president of Creative Time, a New York City organization that promotes art in public spaces. *5 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 647–2337.*

★**"Mapping the River": U-M Arts on Earth.** *Feb. 12–14.* Inspired by the endless cycle of water from rain to earth to river, lake, and ocean and back to the sky and rain, this collaboration among several U-M faculty features choreography by dance professor Jessica Fogel for a quintet of U-M dance majors, set to a multimedia collage that includes a live chamber version of music professor Evan Chambers's *Headwaters,* U-M percussion students' performance on basins of water of a Tan Dun score, English professor Keith Taylor's reading of his poem cycle inspired by the Huron River, and a video backdrop that incorporates photographs by art professor Doug Hasselstine and paintings by natural resources professor Sara Adlerstine, who also supplies scientific information about the state of the river. *5:15 p.m., U-M Duderstadt Video Center, 2281 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. Space limited; reservations required. 615–8738.*

★**"Exhibiting Daily Life, Death, and the Afterlife in Greek and Roman Egypt": U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.** Talk by U-M curator Terry Wilfong. *6–7:30 p.m., Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State. Free. 647–4167.*

★**"Youth.Out": The Neutral Zone.** Local students present the findings of a 2-year Riot Youth research project on how Washtenaw County LGBT high school students are treated. *6–8 p.m., Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington. Free. 214–9995.*

★**"Refusing to Be Enemies": Ann Arbor District Library.** Screening of local filmmaker Laurie White's 58-minute documentary about Zeitouna, a local discussion group of Arabic and Jewish women whose focus is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Followed by discussion with Zeitouna members. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

Food Talks: Washtenaw Whole Foods Market. *Feb. 12 & 20.* Today: **"Light, Flavorful, & Frugal."** Also this month: **"Choose Your Own Adventure Cupcakes"** (Feb. 20). Also, on Feb. 16, a free introduction to **"The Coffees of Africa."** *7 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. $10. Preregistration requested. 975–4500.*

"Big Ales": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about some 2 dozen strong ales, higher-alcohol versions of pale ales that are sometimes referred to as old ales, stock ales, or winter warmers. Also, barley wines, scotch ales, Double IPAs, and Belgian ales. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. *7–9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets $25 in advance and (if available) at the door. 213–1393.*

"Italian Valentine Banchetto": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's chef Rodger Bowser hosts a dinner of speck ham, Sicilian *estratto,* and other lesser-known Italian foods. *7 p.m., Zingerman's, 422 Detroit St. $40 (couples, $70). Reservations required. 663–3400.*

★**Higher Consciousness Group: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** *Every Thurs.* All invited to discuss and practice techniques to raise consciousness. *7–8:30 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Donation. 353–0906.*

Film Discussion Group: Jewish Community Center. Michigan Theater executive director Russ Collins leads a discussion of films TBA. All invited. *7 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $75 for the yearlong 10-session series; prorated weekly fee TBA. 971–0990.*

★**"Modern Noise, Fluid Genres: Popular Music in Indonesia, 1997–2001": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** Bowling Green State University popular culture professor **Jeremy Wallach** reads from his new study. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

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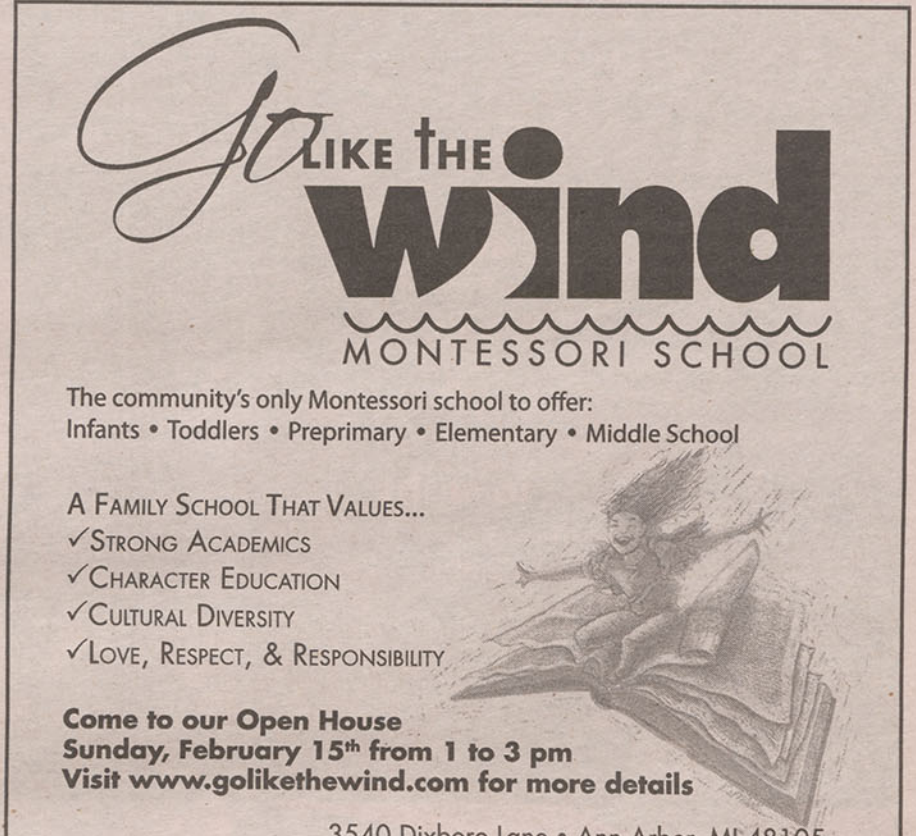
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★**"The Pillowman": U-M Basement Arts.** *Feb. 12–14.* U-M theater student Darren Criss directs Martin McDonagh's Olivier Award–winning sublime dark comedy about a writer who's interrogated when local murders start to resemble the ones in his stories. *The Pillowman* celebrates "the raw, vital human instinct to invent fantasies, to lie for the sport of it, to bait with red herrings, to play Scheherazade to an audience real or imagined," says a *New York Times* critic. "For Mr. McDonagh, that instinct is as primal and energizing as the appetites for sex and food. Life is short and brutal, but stories are fun." *7 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Studio 1, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. basement@umich.edu.*

"Reefer Madness": EMU Theater Department. See 6 Friday. 7 p.m.

Ann Arbor Ski Club. *Feb. 12 & 26.* All age 21 & older invited to learn about the club's downhill and cross-country ski and snowboarding outings and other social activities. Followed by a **Valentine's Day party** (Feb. 12) and a **talent show** (Feb. 26). Refreshments available. *7:30–11 p.m., Chapel Hill Clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. $5. 786–2237.*

★**"Seed Starting": Ann Arbor Garden Club.** Talk by a gardener TBA. Also, a potluck. *7:30–9:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 769–2015.*

★**"Politics and Astrology in the Galileo Affair": U-M Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library.** Talk by University of Wisconsin history of science professor Michael Shank. *7:30 p.m., U-M Hatcher Library Gallery, Room 100. Free. 615–3194.*

★**"Pops/Jazz Concert": Greenhills School.** Ben Cohen and Neil Donato direct the Upper School choir and Greenhills jazz ensembles in a program TBA. *7:30 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 769–4010.*

"Under Milk Wood": U-M Musical Theatre Studio. *Feb. 12–15.* Gillian Eaton directs U-M musical theater students in a studio production of Dylan Thomas's lyrical, impassioned, often humorous portrait of the troubled inner lives of a variety of people on a spring day in a small Welsh seaside town. (Yes, musical theater students: they're working on their acting skills.) *7:30 p.m., Walgreen Drama Center Towsley Musical Theatre Studio, 1226 Murfin. Tickets $18 & $24 (students with ID, $9) in advance at the Michigan League Box Office and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538.*

"The Show-Off": U-M Theatre Department. *Feb. 12–15.* Philip Kerr directs U-M theater students in George Kelly's masterful 1924 farce about an ambitious, egotistical blowhard with a goofy laugh who bluffs his way into marrying a respectable young woman and turns her family's life upside down with his antics. *7:30 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, Michigan League. Tickets $18 & $24 (students, $9) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–0450.*

"Evita": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 5 Thursday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

★**Faculty Showcase Concert: U-M School of Music.** Jazz pianist **Ellen Rowe,** saxophonist **Andrew Bishop,** violist **Becca Albers,** and percussionist **Joseph Gramley** perform works TBA. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

"Love Is in the Air: Songs & Sonnets for the Heart": Mid-Michigan Chapter of the National Society of Arts & Letters. Performance by award-winning Rochester, Minnesota, soprano **Amita Prakash.** *8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

Sweet Honey in the Rock: University Musical Society. Founded in 1973 by Bernice Johnson Reagon (now retired), this celebrated a cappella quintet from Washington, D.C., has won a wide following for its powerful renditions of politically minded original songs. The group's music is rooted in the African American tradition and ranges from spirituals to gospel to rap. It's renowned both for a sharp-minded left-wing political fervor and for its thrilling music that combines tiered harmonies, hard dissonances, urgent rhythms, and lush melodies. With a sign-language translator whose graceful movements are an integral part of the performance. A favorite with local audiences. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$46 in advance at the Michigan League and ums.org, and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Lynne Koplitz: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Feb. 12–14.* Popular Tennessee-bred stand-up comic known for her faux-ditzy persona and her whimsically irreverent observations about relationships and everyday life. A frequent guest on TV shows, she also hosted the Food Network comedy show *How to Boil Water* and currently has a special in regular rotation on Comedy Central. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

13 FRIDAY

★**"Don't Just Be Good—Be Good for Something: Social Work at Michigan for the 21st Century": U-M School of Social Work Dean's Lecture Series.** Talk by U-M School of Social Work dean Laura Lein. *3 p.m., 1840 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 763–6886.*

★**"The Earnest Years": U-M Center for South Asian Studies.** Screening of this recent documentary about an Indian poet who struggles with writer's block and alcoholism in the cramped living quarters he shares with his wife and son. Followed by a discussion with the director, U-M student **Sandeep Ray.** *4 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 615–4059.*

★**"Mapping the River": U-M Arts on Earth.** See 12 Thursday. 5:15 p.m.

Winter Carnival: Northside Elementary School. Indoor games and activities for kids and their families, including bowling, Double Dutch jump roping, face painting, and more. Pizza, nachos, popcorn, and other refreshments available. *6–8 p.m., Northside Elementary School, 912 Barton Dr. Free admission; game tickets 25¢. 994–1958.*

★**U-M Wrestling vs. Ohio State.** *7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, Hoover at S. State. Free. 764–0247.*

"Tea Tasting": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers. All invited to sample premium teas from China and Taiwan. *7–8 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers Studio B, 2007 S. State. $5. 945–8602.*

★**Crazy Wisdom Reading Circle: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** All invited to discuss Randy Pausch's best-selling ***The Last Lecture.*** *7–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

"Reefer Madness": EMU Theater Department. See 6 Friday. 7 p.m.

★**"The Pillowman": U-M Basement Arts.** See 12 Thursday. 7 & 11 p.m.

"Funky Frosty Friday": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. *Feb. 13 & 27.* Public skating under mirrored balls to themed music. Also, costume contests. Today: **"Valentine Skate."** Skating to romantic pop music. Also this month: **"Rock the 80s Skate"** (Feb. 27). Wear spandex and skate to hair bands and monster ballads. *7:15–8:45 p.m., Buhr Park Ice Rink, 2751 Packard. $6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $5). Skate rentals ($3) available. 971–3228.*

★**Older Lesbians Organizing.** All lesbians invited to discuss **pets and other animals.** *7:30 p.m., WRAP office (upstairs), 319 Braun Ct. Free. 995–9867.*

"The Laramie Project": Huron High Players. See 6 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"Annie Get Your Gun": Burns Park Players 26th Annual Production. See 6 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

U-M Women's Gymnastics vs. Penn State. *7:30 p.m., Crisler Arena, S. State at Hoover. $3 (youths age 12 & under, $1; U-M students, free). 763–2159.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Nebraska-Omaha. *Feb. 13 & 14. 7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. $12–$17. 764–0247.*

★**Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** *Feb. 13 & 27.* All invited to join this ongoing study group to discuss Rudolf Steiner's book *Lectures on Karmic Relationships,* vol. 6. Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. *8–9:30 p.m., 33 Ridgeway East, 1 block east of the Arb entrance on Geddes. Free. 662–6398.*

2nd Friday Advanced English Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Dan Blim, Tammy Corwin-Renner, Don Theyken, Mark Hillegonds, and others lead their own dances to music by Childgrove. For experienced dancers. Fast pace, with limited walk-throughs. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $10. (248) 288–4737.*

★**EMU Wind Symphony and Chamber Choir: EMU Music Department.** Mary Schneider and Trey Jacobs direct these music-student ensembles in a program featuring the music of Michigan composers. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**Concert and Symphony Band Winds: U-M School of Music.** Jazz pianist Scott Boerma and Tim Krohn direct this music-student ensemble in a program of works by composition students from the U-M, Indiana University, the University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, and the University of Iowa. *8 p.m., Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

"Richard Rodgers in Revue!": Kerrytown Concert House. Joshua Major and Jerry DePuit direct 5 local singers in a semi-staged performance of cabaret songs by the legendary American composer Richard Rodgers. The cast includes bass baritone George Cornelius and tenor Juan Pereira, both U-M music students, and others. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15, $20, & $30. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

Jeff Parker & Sam Barsh: Canterbury House. Chicago-based guitarist Parker and New York City–based keyboardist Barsh play tunes from their acclaimed jazz albums, Barsh's 2008 *I Forgot What You Taught Me*

and Parker's 2005 *The Relatives*. Opening act is the local jazz-rock hip-hop ensemble **Drunk Vinyl.** *8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. $15 (students, $10). 761–3162.*

Charlie Louvin: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). *See review, p. 40.* With his late brother, Ira, Charlie Louvin formed one of the most influential vocal duos in the history of country music, especially in their fierce close harmony readings of Appalachian white gospel songs and ballad traditions. Now 81, Louvin continues to tour regularly and has recently released 2 CDs, each devoted to one portion of his trademark repertoire, *Charlie Louvin Sings Great Murder Ballads and Disaster Songs* and *Steps to Heaven*. Desserts & coffee available. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $15 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

Kodo: University Musical Society. A return visit from this Japanese men's percussion ensemble, celebrated worldwide for powerful, athletic performances that blend primitive rhythms with classical and jazz music and martial arts movements. The group's name means both "heartbeat" and "children of the drum," and the heart of the ensemble is the o-daiko, a huge drum carved from the trunk of a single tree and played by two men. The ensemble also includes the taiko (an ancient Japanese drum), xylophone, gong, bamboo flute, and more. "Superlatives don't really exist to convey the primal power and bravura beauty of Kodo," says a *Chicago Tribune* reviewer. "The speed and dexterity are as impressive as the physical tenacity is breathtaking." The company was founded in 1971 as a communal society on the isolated Sado Island in the Sea of Japan. When not on tour, Kodo members follow a daily routine of practice and rigorous exercise to maintain the stamina necessary for their performances. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$48 in advance at the Michigan League and ums.org, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

"Evita": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 5 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Under Milk Wood": U-M Musical Theatre Studio. See 12 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Earth and Sky": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 6 Friday. 8 p.m.

"The Show-Off": U-M Theatre Department. See 12 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Maz Jobrani: Live Nation. Ann Arbor debut of this Iranian American stand-up comic who's best known for his appearances on Comedy Central with the Axis of Evil comedy troupe. His act blends satire of racist stereotypes of Persians and Arabs with observational humor about the actual—and humanly common—foibles of Middle Eastern people and cultures. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $12.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Lynne Koplitz: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 12 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Valentine's Dance": Sh\aut\ Cabaret and Gallery. Dancing to music spun by DJ Janks. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Sh\aut\, 325 Braun Ct. Free admission. 663–0036.*

14 SATURDAY

5th Annual Independence Lake Ice Fishing Derby: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. Kids and adults can compete in 2 divisions for prizes. Bring your own bait. *7 a.m.–4 p.m., Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings (north off North Territorial), Webster Twp. $8 (kids 12 & under, $4), includes vehicle entry fee and lunch. 449–4437.*

9th Annual U-M Dancesport Competition: U-M Ballroom Dance Team. The U-M team hosts a ballroom dance competition featuring teams from several Big 10 and other Midwest universities. *8 a.m.–10 p.m., Intramural Sports, 600 E. Hoover. $12 (students with ID, $8; kids under age 5, free) in advance at UofMballroom.com, and at the door. 763–6984.*

★**Ecosystem Restoration Workday: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum.** *Feb. 14 & 21 (different locations).* All invited to help Matthaei staff members remove invasive plants and prepare new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Snacks and tools provided, or bring your own. *9 a.m.–noon, meet at the Arb Reader Center (Feb. 14), 1610 Washington Hts., & Matthaei (Feb. 21), 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. Registration requested. 647–8528.*

★**Huron Gun Collectors.** *Feb. 14 & 15.* Some 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment, including antiques and collectibles. Concessions. *9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sat.) & 9 a.m.–3 p.m. (Sun.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission $4. (517) 605–0624.*

★**Materials Recovery Facility Monthly Open House: Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department.** Guided tours of the city's recycling and trash disposal center. This month's special activities include a display on

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vermicomposting (indoor composting with worms). *10 a.m.–1 p.m., Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free. 997–1533.*

"Jamie and Jordan": Performance Network Children's Theater Network. Premiere of Royal Oak playwright Kim Carney's hilarious musical about the importance of both a healthy lifestyle and a healthy friendship. Milk & cookies. For prekindergartners through 5th-graders. *11 a.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $10 (youth 16 & under, $7) in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. For reservations or to charge by phone, call 663–0681.*

★**American Girl Club: Barnes & Noble.** All girls ages 8–12 invited to learn about the 2009 Girl of the Year, Chrissa Maxwell, and make an American Girl Valentine Card. Also, games. *11:30 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. Space limited; reservations required. 973–1618.*

★**Indonesian Potluck: U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies.** All those interested in Indonesia invited for a potluck. Bring a dish to pass; table service provided. *1–3 p.m., 202 S. Thayer. Free. For information, contact agustini@umich.edu. 764–4568.*

"Afro-Brazilian Dancing": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers. All invited to try a variety of Afro-Brazilian dance styles. *1–2 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers, 2007 S. State. $15. 945–8602.*

Waterloo Natural History Association. *Feb. 14 & 21:* Today: **"Animals That Will Warm Your Heart,"** a humorous, interactive presentation, with a variety of live animals, by naturalist Paul McCormack. Also this month: **"Skins, Scat, & Skulls"** (Feb. 21), a presentation and demonstration walk by naturalist Dave Szczygiel, with specimens from his collection of Michigan animal skulls and skins, on how various creatures use their specialized body parts and how to recognize animal signs in the wild. *2 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center, Bush Rd., Chelsea. $2 (family, $5). $4 vehicle entrance fee. 475–3170.*

★**"Mapping the River": U-M Arts on Earth.** See 12 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**"Ethno-Historicism: Two Heroines Marking the Borders Between Traditional and Composed Music": U-M School of Music Stearns Lecture.** Northwestern University musicology professor Inna Naroditskaya discusses 2 Azerbaijani operas. *2:30 p.m., 506 Burton Memorial Tower. Free. 764–0594.*

"Valentine's Partner Yoga & Thai Massage": Sun Moon Yoga. All invited to try playful 2-person yoga poses and to practice Thai massage. Bring a friend, family member, or partner. *4–6 p.m., Sun Moon Yoga, 404 W. Huron. $40 per couple. Preregistration required. 929–0274.*

"Annie Get Your Gun": Burns Park Players 26th Annual Production. See 6 Friday. 4 p.m.

★**"Darwin's Birthday Bash": U-M Exhibit Museum.** Display of student art interpreting passages from *On the Origin of Species;* prizes for best submissions. Also, U-M Museum of Zoology director Bill Fink and U-M Center for Sexual Health director Sallie Foley discuss **"The Evolution of Sex: Biology, Human Behavior, and Love."** The program concludes with a reception with cake and sparkling cider. *6–10 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764–0478.*

★**Cabaret: Temple Beth Emeth.** The temple's **Kol Halev** choir performs Broadway favorites, ballads, comic songs, and more. Also, a winter fare buffet. *6 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard Rd. Free. 665–4744.*

"13th Annual Hearts for the Arts": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Fund-Raiser. Champagne reception, formal dinner, and live and silent auctions of donated goods and services. Also, a raffle for a guitar that's been autographed by George Harrison, Bob Dylan, and others. *6 p.m., Four Points by Sheraton, 3200 Boardwalk. $160. 994–4801.*

"Kids Night Out!": Jewish Community Center. All kids ages 5–10 invited for dinner, Valentine sweets, and a screening of ***Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory,*** Mel Stuart's 1971 musical film adaptation of Roald Dahl's popular children's fantasy. *6:30–10 p.m., JCC gym, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $24 (members, $20), $22 (members, $18) for each additional sibling. Reservations required by Feb. 12. 971–0990.*

★**U-M Wrestling vs. Penn State.** *7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, Hoover at S. State. Free. 764–0247.*

"Star Party": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. All invited to join the University Lowbrow Astronomers for a look at the sky through their telescopes. *7–8:30 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. $5 (kids, $2; U-M students, free). Reservations required. 647–7600.*

★**"The Pillowman": U-M Basement Arts.** See 12 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Reefer Madness": EMU Theater Department. See 6 Friday. 7 p.m.

"The Laramie Project": Huron High Players. See 6 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"Singing for Their Supper": Food Gatherers Fund-Raiser. Original song settings of the poems of Emily

University Symphony Orchestra

Jerry Blackstone rings Rachmaninoff's Bells

No one there will ever forget it—the moment the massed forces of the University Symphony Orchestra and Choirs launched into Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Sea Symphony* with a tutti the size of a tsunami: "Behold: the sea!" And as the tidal waves of sound swept over Hill Auditorium, the idea was born in more than one listener: conductor and choral director Jerry Blackstone may very well be the hottest classical act in town.

Since he arrived at the U-M music school, Blackstone has rejuvenated both the school's choral program and the University Music Society Choral Union, garnering praise from listeners and critics alike for his clear textures, crisp articulation, sculpted balances, and irresistible sense of momentum. On Wednesday, February 18, Blackstone and the University Symphony Orchestra and choirs return to Hill to take on another monumental late Romantic work: Sergey Rachmaninoff's setting of Konstantin Balmont's translation of Edgar Allan Poe's "The Bells"—a massive four-movement choral symphony depicting the whole life cycle through the sound of bells.

By common agreement, it is Rachmaninoff's greatest work. Even the hypercritical composer himself thought so: "I worked on this composition with feverish ardor," Rachmaninoff told his biographer, "and it remains, of all my work, the one I like best." One can see why. In every way, it appeals to his strengths as a composer and as a human being.

Born in northern Russia, Rachmaninoff grew up with the sound of bells—sleigh bells and church bells, alarm bells and funeral bells—and the tintinnabulation of bells rings in his instrumental music from first to last. But with Poe's poem providing the metaphors, Rachmaninoff here translates the sound of bells into a language everyone can understand. Set for soprano, tenor, and bass soloists with chorus and orchestra, *The Bells* is Rachmaninoff's largest-scale work, and despite being written at a white heat, it is also one of his most cogently argued. Every detail, from the flute trills at the start to the muffled basses of the end, takes its place in a wholly unified and immensely compelling structure.

But vastly more important than the work's structure is its meaning. With a virtuoso compositional technique, Rachmaninoff expresses the essence of Poe's poem—the sparkling exhilaration of silver sleigh bells, the sensual excitement of golden wedding bells, the stark terror of brazen alarm bells, and the doleful gloom of iron funeral bells. And though each movement is enormously affecting, it is in the finale's closing pages that one hears Rachmaninoff's own fatalistic voice speaking in the tones of deep eternity.

Also on the program is Vaughan Williams's *Flos Campi*, a wordless setting of portions of the biblical Song of Songs for viola, small chorus, and orchestra. Arguably the English composer's sexiest work, its voluptuous melodies and opulent harmonies have to be heard to be believed.

—James Leonard

Dickinson and Rumi by **Laz Slomovits** of the popular local acoustic duo Gemini. He is joined by his wife, Helen, on flute and Celtic harp, percussionist Lori Fithian, and guitarist and bassist Eric Fithian. The ensemble also performs settings of love poems by Nancy Heers, who dances to the songs with her dance group, **Dancers for Life.** *7:30 p.m., River Gallery, 120 S. Main, Chelsea. Donation. 433–0826.*

"Heart of the Lion Valentine's Dinner Dance": Ann Arbor Evening Lions Club. Steak, chicken, or vegetarian dinner, followed at 9 p.m. by dancing to late–30s swing and 40s R&B by the **II-V-I Orchestra,** a veteran local big band led by saxophonist David Swain. Cash bar. Silent auction of donated goods and services. Proceeds benefit the Lions Club, a service organization that primarily helps the visually impaired, and the U-M Mott Children's Hospital. *7:30 p.m., Washtenaw Country Club, 2955 Packard, Ypsilanti. $50. Reservations requested by Feb. 6. 485–3579. 741–4497.*

Valentine's Ball: Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Dancing to popular music from the early 1900s. Vintage attire encouraged. Preceded at noon by dance workshops. *7:45–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $25. Preregistration requested. 769–0041.*

International Folk Dancing. Dancing to live music by the Ethnic Connection. The program begins with a dance lesson. *8–11 p.m., Gretchen's House, 2625 Traver. $8–$10 (students, $3–$5) donation. 995–0011.*

Ballroom Dancing Night: Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing to recorded music from the last several decades. Preceded at 7 p.m. by an introduction to basic dance steps and ballroom dancing styles by Sue Bareis, Washtenaw County's best-known ballroom dance instructor. All invited, singles as well as couples. Refreshments. *8–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. $5. 822–2120.*

2nd Saturday Contra Dance. Don Theyken calls contras to music by the Sharon Hollow String Band. No partner needed. Wear cool, casual clothes, and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes. Beginners welcome. *8 p.m., Webster Community Hall, 5665 Webster Church Rd. between Joy and North Territorial, Dexter. $8. 996–8359.*

"Renaissance Lute Songs: 'She, She, and Only She'": Academy of Early Music. London-based countertenor **Andrew Pickett** and Spanish lutenist **Manuel Minguillon** perform lute songs by English composers John Dowland, John Danyel, Robert Johnson, and Thomas Campion and Spanish composers Juan Vasquez, Luis de Narvaez, and others. *8 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. $15 (seniors, $12; students, $5) at the door only. 665–5758.*

Batsheva Dance Company: University Musical Society. *Feb. 14 & 15.* Founded in 1964 by the baroness Batsheva de Rothschild, a patroness of the late Martha Graham, the Batsheva Dance Company came into its own as a modern dance company when choreographer Ohad Naharin became artistic director in 1990. Drawing on traditional folk dances such as the hora, Naharin brought a vibrant Israeli style to the troupe's choreography. "[Naharin] has an exhilaratingly physical, sharply delineated movement style that propels dancers into geometric angles and calligraphic curves as their torsos circle and their limbs lash through the air," according to a *New York Times* critic. Tonight's program, *Three,* is a trio of lively 30-minute dances. Note: *Three* contains brief nudity; no late seating. *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $18–$42 in advance at the Michigan League and ums.org, and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

"Off the Wall": Sh\aut\ Cabaret and Gallery. Performance art by renowned feminist performance artist and U-M art and design professor **Holly Hughes** and

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Phranc (see 3 Tuesday U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender listing). *8 p.m., Sh\aut\, 325 Braun Ct. Cost TBA. 663–0036.*

"Evita": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 5 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Mad Lib Puppet Show": Dreamland Theater. See 7 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Under Milk Wood": U-M Musical Theatre Studio. See 12 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Earth and Sky": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 6 Friday. 8 p.m.

"The Show-Off": U-M Theatre Department. See 12 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Lynne Koplitz: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 12 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

2nd Saturday Swing Dance: Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Dancing to recorded jump blues, swing, and big-band music. All welcome; no partner necessary. Preceded at 7:30 p.m. by lessons ($5). *8:30–11 p.m., Kenville Studios, 323 Hoover. $5 (dance with lesson, $7). 213–0537.*

"Facets of Love": Arbor Opera Theater. *Feb. 14 & 15 (different programs).* Members of this polished local opera company are accompanied by a jazz ensemble in performances of favorite love songs. Pastries, desserts, and beverages included. *8:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Tickets $25 in advance by emailing tickets@arboropera.com. Reservations recommended. 663–8936.*

15 SUNDAY

39th Annual Show: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club. The Midwest's largest model railroad flea market draws model railroaders, collectors, and train buffs from around the country and Canada to display, trade, and sell model railroad equipment and memorabilia on over 400 vendor tables. Also, display of model train operating layouts and a raffle. Food available. Proceeds used to restore and maintain Dexter's railroad depot. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Saline Middle School, 7190 N. Maple, Saline. $6 (kids under 10 with adult, free). 426–0829.*

★12th Annual ID Day: U-M Exhibit Museum. All invited to bring in your prehistoric (or at least really old) treasures and nature finds to have them identified by a professional paleontologist, geologist, anthropologist, archaeologist, botanist, or zoologist—anything from a fossil to an unidentifiable but gnarly spider. No appraisals. Also, birthday hats and cake celebrating Darwin's 200th birthday available at 3:30 p.m. *Noon–5 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764–0478.*

"James and the Giant Peach": Theatreworks USA Two Beans Productions (Michigan Theater Foundation Not Just for Kids Series). This renowned New York City–based children's theater troupe returns to the Michigan Theater to present its adaptation of Roald Dahl's fantasy novel about an orphaned boy left with 2 cruel aunts who, after being rescued by a mysterious fellow, ends up drifting across the Atlantic in a giant peach in the company of a variety of engaging anthropomorphized insects. *1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $14 (MTF members, $12) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★"Growing Jewel Orchids in Terrariums": Ann Arbor Orchid Society. Talk by Orchid Society president Alex Challis. Also, an orchid show-and-tell, orchid sales, a silent auction, raffles, and a chance to grill experts on problem plants. *1:45 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens auditorium, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 663–0756.*

★"Into the Mystical: Ancient Wisdom for Our Troubled Times": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room Salon. Detroit-area metaphysical scholar and teacher **Robert Taylor** discusses his new book about ancient Vedic teachings. Signing. *2 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757, 665–9160.*

Family Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. All children and their parents or grandparents invited for an afternoon of contra and square dancing with callers John Freeman, Ed Vincent, and David Park Williams with music by David West and Donna Baird. Followed by Grange-baked cookies. *2–4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $12 per family. 769–1052.*

★Noah McCullough: U-M Ford Presidential Library. This 13-year-old historian, an advocate for history education for kids who has appeared on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Oprah,* and *The Today Show,* discusses his 2008 book ***First Kids: True Stories of All the Presidents' Children.*** Signing. *2 p.m., Ford Library, 1000 Beal. Free. 205–0555.*

★"Archaeology of 1015 Wall Street & Lower Town": Washtenaw County Historical Society. Talk by U-M anthropology professor Henry Wright. *2 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 662–9092.*

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Ann Arbor Camerata plays at Concordia University Feb. 15.

"Under Milk Wood": U-M Musical Theatre Studio. See 12 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 2 p.m.

"The Show-Off": U-M Theatre Department. See 12 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"C. S. Lewis on Stage": Concordia University. Atlanta-based actor and playwright **Tom Key** performs his one-man play about the Irish-born novelist, essayist, poet, and Christian apologist. The play traces Lewis's spiritual journey with occasional portrayals of various characters from his writing. "Tom Key provides a fine balance between Lewis's somewhat old-fashioned poetry, his clever advocacy of 'mere Christianity' (Christianity stripped of political ideology), and his sometimes stodgy, sometimes spot-on satirical skewering of modernism and pre- and post-WW II British life," says a *Chicago Reader* critic. *3 p.m., Concordia University Kreft Center Black Box Theater, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. $10 (students & seniors, $5). 995–4612.*

"Evita": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 5 Thursday. 3 & 7 p.m.

Children's Puppet Shows: Dreamland Theater. See 1 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra. Adam Riccinto directs this volunteer community orchestra in a Tchaikovsky work TBA featuring violin soloist **Hannah Linz,** winner of the YSO's annual concerto competition. Also, other works TBA. *3:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $10 (seniors & kids under 12, $5; family of 4 or more, $25) in advance and at the door. 507–1451.*

"Facets of Love": Arbor Opera Theater. See 14 Saturday. Today's program: songs about love in its many manifestations—even the somewhat jaded and bitter ones. Also, a silent auction. 3:30 p.m.

★Jazz Ensemble: EMU Music Department. Donald Babcock directs this music-student ensemble in a varied program of jazz classics and fresh charts. *4 p.m., Quirk Theater, Ford St. (off Lowell from Huron River Dr.), EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

Ann Arbor Camerata. Violinist Mark Schuppener, concertmaster with the Dearborn, Plymouth, and Canton symphonies, directs the debut performance by this local professional chamber ensemble. The program is highlighted by a performance of Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante featuring U-M violin professor Adam Berofsky and his wife, violist Kathryn Votapek. Also, oboist Andrew Parker is joined by violinist David Lamse, violist Jarita Ng, and cellist David Thomas in Mozart's Oboe Quartet in F Major, and Schuppener is joined by cellist Nicholas Finch and pianist Dmitri Vorobiev in Brahms's Piano Trio in B Major. Reception follows. *4 p.m., Concordia University Chapel, 4040 Geddes. Tickets $18 (seniors, $15; students, $8) in advance and at the door. 417–6699.*

Batsheva Dance Company: University Musical Society. See 14 Saturday. Today: *Deca Dance* combines excerpts from 16 of Naharin's works from the last 2 decades. 4 p.m.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Minnesota. *5 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

"The Love Hangover": 826michigan and Huron River Arts Initiative. Love songs by area musicians, including the Detroit electropop glam band **Champions of Breakfast,** Ypsilanti singer-songwriter **Patrick Elkins,** the local experimental pop-folk septet **Canada,** Ypsilanti singer-songwriters **Annie Palmer & Dave Lawson,** and others. *7:30 p.m., Old 2nd Ward Bldg. (aka Hathaway's Hideaway), 310 S. Ashley. $10. 761–3463.*

16 MONDAY

★"Black History Month/President's Day Celebration": Barnes & Noble. All kids invited for a nonfiction history storytime and to help make a patchwork quilt. Refreshments. *11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★Book Club: Ann Arbor Senior Center. All seniors age 50 & older invited to join Lucia Skoman to discuss a book TBA at a2gov.org/senior. *12:15 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★"The Ugly, the Stupid, and the Dead: Emilia and the Poetics of Speculation in Boccaccio's Decameron": U-M Center for European Studies. Talk by University of California Italian studies professor Albert Russell Ascoli. *4–6 p.m., Rackham East Conference Room (4th floor). Free. 647–2743.*

★"The Social Architecture of Urban Marginality in the 21st Century": U-M College of Architecture and Urban Planning. Talk by University of California sociology professor Loic Wacquant, whose new book, *Punishing the Poor,* explores the relationship between prison and welfare in America. *6–8 p.m., U-M Art & Architecture Bldg., 2000 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 936–0206.*

★Embroiderers Guild of America. Stitchers of all abilities invited to work on their projects, socialize, and learn about guild activities. *7 p.m., United Way, 2305 Platt. Free to visitors ($30 annual dues). 975–4348.*

★"Pajamajam": Ann Arbor District Library. All preschoolers invited to come in their PJs and slippers with blankets to hear stories and sing songs with local musician Sara Melton Keller. *7–7:30 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–4200.*

★Giant Steps: Ann Arbor District Library. This all-star Detroit jazz sextet led by tenor saxophonist Allan Barnes pays tribute to the "Saxophone Legends of the Golden Age of Jazz," from Charlie Parker to John Coltrane. With vocalist Sunny Wilkinson, pianist Cliff Monear, trumpeter Racey Biggs, bassist Marion Hayden, and drummer Gayelynn McKinney. In conjunction with Black History Month. *7–8 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★Nonfiction Readers Group: Barnes & Noble. All invited to join a discussion of Greg Mortenson's best-selling memoir ***Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time.*** Refreshments. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★Chris Bohjalian: Liberty Borders. This Vermont novelist reads from ***Skeletons at the Feast,*** his new novel set in Nazi Germany about a band of refugees fleeing west ahead of the advancing Russian army. Signing. *7 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★EMU Percussion Ensemble: EMU Music Department. John Dorsey directs this music-student ensemble in a program of works in an eclectic mix of rhythms and instrumental timbres. *7:30 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**"Working in Yellowstone: Effects of the Fires": Michigan Botanical Club.** Slide-illustrated talk by local naturalist Dave Brooks. *7:45 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. (810) 923–5860.*

★**Student String Quartet Recital: U-M School of Music.** Music students perform works TBA. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

Alberto Rojo Trio: Kerrytown Concert House. This ensemble led by Rojo, an acclaimed Argentinean guitarist who has recorded with Mercedes Sosa—his self-proclaimed "number one fan"—plays Argentinean folk songs, jazz standards with a South American flair, and more. With local cellist **Andrew Kratzat,** U-M percussion professor **Michael Gould,** and guest Argentinean quena (bamboo flute) player **Diego Clemente.** *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

17 TUESDAY

★**"Cross-Currents: The Cinemas of Japan, China, and Korea": U-M Center for Japanese Studies.** Talk by Smithsonian Institution film programmer and Asian cinema expert **Tom Vick.** *4:30–6:30 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater. Free. 764–1825.*

★**Party Game Night; Tree Town Toys.** All invited to play Apples to Apples, SET, and other party games. *6:30–8:30 p.m., Tree Town Toys, Traver Village, 2611 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration requested. 929–6545.*

★**"Drummunity!"** Lori Fithian, a local drummer and drum teacher, leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a brief drum lesson. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main. Free. 426–7818.*

★**Writers Reading at Sweetwaters.** Readings by 2 local writers who recently married, poet **Onna Solomon** and fiction writer **Jonathan Schwartz.** Followed by an open-mike for poets and other creative writers. *7–9 p.m., Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 123 W. Washington. Free. 369–2798.*

★**Karin Muraszko: American Association of University Women.** This U-M neurosurgery professor discusses her career and her current efforts to recruit more women for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics careers. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1587.*

★**Josie Kearns: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This U-M English lecturer and award-winning poet reads from her 2 new poetry collections, ***Alphabet of the Ocean,*** a collection inspired by her research into the forms of written languages, and ***The Theory of Everything,*** a collection of poems that play with the resonances between contemporary science and ancient mythologies. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**"Where Do the Children Play?": Huron Valley Sierra Club.** Screening of part of this recent documentary that examines how suburban development affects children's health. Followed by a talk by **Elizabeth Goodenough,** a U-M English lecturer whose 2003 book *Secret Spaces of Childhood* inspired the film. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free.*

18 WEDNESDAY

"The Morning Edition": Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce. This popular monthly program features a buffet breakfast and a series of 5-minute updates from local business and community leaders. Hosted by Michigan Theater executive director Russ Collins. Speakers TBA. Video replays posted at annarborchamber.org. *7–8:45 a.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. $30 (members, $25). Preregistration requested. 214–0104.*

★**"Social Factors and Sleep in the United States": U-M Epidemiology Department.** Talk by U-M sociology and epidemiology professor Sarah Burgard. *3 p.m., 1690 SPH, 109 S. Observatory. Free. 764–0594.*

★**"Environmental Health Sciences, Today and Tomorrow: From the Molecular to the Global": U-M School of Public Health.** Talk by U-M environmental health science professor Howard Hu. Followed by a reception. *3 p.m., SPH Auditorium, 109 S. Observatory. Free. 764–8093.*

★**"Insults, Interrogation, and Ideologies: Political Practices in the Kojedo POW Camp During the Korean War": U-M Center for Korean Studies.** Talk by U-M history instructor Monica Kim. *4–6 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–1825.*

★**"Collective Action in American Iraq: Can the People Thwart Empire?": U-M College of Literature, Science, & the Arts.** Lecture by **Juan Cole,** a nationally recognized expert on the Middle East and author of the widely influential blog Informed Comment at juancole.com. Reception follows. *4:10 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater (4th floor). Free. 998–6251.*

"Artisanal Cheeses of the Midwest": Eve Restaurant. Eve cheese expert Ari Sussman discusses and offers taste samples of Midwest cheeses and wines. *7 p.m., Eve, Kerrytown. $50. Preregistration required. 222–0711.*

★**"Antique Gardens: American Home Landscapes, 1800–1940": Saline Area Historical Society.** Talk by Old House Gardens founder and landscape historian **Scott Kunst.** *7 p.m., Saline District Library Brecon Room, 555 N. Maple, Saline. Free. 944–0442.*

★**"World Travel 101: Budget Travel": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by representatives from the Michigan Council of Hostelling International-USA. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**Works-in-Progress Series: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** See 4 Wednesday. Tonight: poetry reading by U-M Zell poetry fellow **Kristie Kachler** and fiction reading by U-M creative writing grad **Greg Schutz.** *7–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**"Duck Identification": Washtenaw Audubon Society.** WAS member Allen Chartier, coauthor of *A Birder's Guide to Michigan* and coordinating editor of the forthcoming *Michigan Breeding Bird Atlas II,* shows how to recognize the more common species of ducks both on the water and in flight, as well as occasional rarities that show up on Michigan lakes and rivers. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 677–3275.*

★**"Revealing the Universe from Space": U-M Exhibit Museum.** Talk by U-M astronomy professor Jon Miller. *7:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764–0478.*

Ben Folds: Live Nation. Witty, quirky, rough-and-ready piano-based rock 'n' roll by this singer-songwriter who first gained attention as the leader of the Ben Folds Five. Folds is especially known for his musical inventiveness. As one critic put it, he "drops Gershwin licks into his solos and weaves Fats Waller and baroque into a repertoire that merges the smarty-pants pop of Squeeze with the punctilious prog R&B of Queen." He's also famous for an unusually strong rapport with his audiences, and Folds often indulges in sing-alongs or call-and-response songs with the crowd. *7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $36.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

★**University Symphony Orchestra, University Choir, & Chamber Choir: U-M School of Music.** *See review, p. 45.* Jerry Blackstone directs these student ensembles in Rachmaninoff's *The Bells,* a setting of Poe's poem, and Vaughan Williams's *Flos Campi,* a sensuous suite inspired by the Song of Songs. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

★**"Music Now Fest '09": EMU Music Department.** *Feb. 18–20 (different programs).* This biennial 3-day festival opens tonight with a recital by EMU music faculty and guest artists of 20th- and 21st-century solo and chamber music by Samuel Barber, Arvo Part, Brian McCloskey, EMU music professors Whitney Prince and Anthony Iannaccone, and EMU grad student Joshua Bornfield. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. All events free except the Feb. 23 "Festival Finale," which is $8 (students & seniors, $4). 487–2255.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 11 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

19 THURSDAY

"Drum Me a Story": Wild Swan Theater. *Feb. 19–21.* This award-winning local children's theater presents its original collection of African trickster folk tales, including "Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock" and "How the Turtle Got Its Shell." In celebration of African American History Month. Guinea-trained master drummer Ryan Edwards accompanies the tales with live drumming and also leads a set of lively sing-along chants and songs. As with all Wild Swan productions, the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language. Audio description and backstage "touch" tours are available by prearrangement for blind audience members. Suitable for kids in grades pre-K to 3. *10 a.m. (sold out) & 1 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $12 (children & seniors, $8; lap passes for kids age 2 & under, $3) in advance and at the door. 995–0530.*

★**Big Ten Championships: U-M Women's Swimming & Diving.** *Feb. 19–21. 10:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m., Canham Natatorium, Hoover at S. Division. Free. 764–0247.*

"Made for Each Other: The Biology of the Human-Animal Bond": Ann Arbor City Club Renaissance Lecture Series. Maryland documentarian and natural history writer **Meg Daley Olmert** discusses her new book about the evolution and hormonal basis of biophilia that Pulitzer Prize–winning biologist E. O. Wilson calls "an original, exceptionally interesting book." Lunch. *11:30 a.m., 1830 Washtenaw. $17.50 (includes*

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lunch). Reservations required 24 hours in advance. 662–3279.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 11 a.m.

★**"Aardappel, Aloo, Bataka, Patata": International Neighbors.** All area women invited for an afternoon of games, crafts, and food centered on the potato in its various linguistic and cultural guises. All encouraged to bring a favorite potato dish to share with women from all over the world. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Refreshments. *1–2:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church social hall, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. 663–3989.*

★**"Sexuality, Marriage, and 'Family Crisis' in the Middle East and North Africa": U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender.** Talk by Oberlin College gender and women's studies professor Frances Hasso. *3 p.m., 2239 Lane Hall, 204 S. State. Free. 764–9537.*

★**"Is Bioethics Stupid?": St. Mary Student Parish.** Talk by Loyola University medicine professor Myles Sheehan. *4 p.m., U-M Biomedical Science Research Bldg., 109 Zina Pitcher Pl. Free. 663–0557, ext. 240.*

★**Hamutal Bar-Yosef: U-M English Department.** Reading by this award-winning Israeli poet, a Hebrew literature expert. "Although her poems are written about her life, which has been tragic and sometimes glorious, Israel, the Jews and their culture, what it means to be alive, the world—all very big subjects—her writing is such that if she were writing about a soap bubble she would be immediately recognizable as a great poet," says poet Stanley Moss. *5 p.m., U-M Frankel Center, 202 S. Thayer. Free. 615–3710.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Minnesota. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

★**Ann Arbor Society for Origami.** All invited (children & adults) to learn about and try their hand at origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. *7–9:30 p.m., Great Oaks Cohousing Common House, 500 Little Lake Dr. (off Parkland from Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). Free. 975–4669.*

"Natural Health and Raw Food": Arbor Farms. Local raw foods advocate Ellen Livingston discusses the advantages of a diet of fresh raw foods and demonstrates how to prepare them. Taste samples. *7–8:30 p.m., Arbor Farms, 2103 W. Stadium. $10. Preregistration required. 996–8111.*

★**"Cooking with the Amazing Artichoke": Washtenaw Woodwrights Kitchen & Design Center.** Cooking demo, with taste samples and recipes, by Whole Foods staffer Mary Ann Nisley. Participants receive a Whole Foods tote bag. *7–8 p.m., Woodwrights, 702 S. Main. Free. Reservations requested. 994–8797.*

★**"Last Lecture": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room Salon.** U-M sociology professor emeritus **Max Heirich** gives a talk inspired by Randy Pausch's best-selling *The Last Lecture. 7 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**"Oscar Night": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Ann Arbor News* arts writer John Carlos Cantu hosts a discussion of this year's Oscar nominees and movie trivia. For adults and teens in grade 6 & up. Also, a contest for free passes to Quality 16. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**"Orchestra Night": Ann Arbor Public Schools.** This gala concert features hundreds of student performers in orchestras from all 5 Ann Arbor middle schools, plus the Huron, Skyline, and Pioneer symphony orchestras. *7 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 994–2314.*

"Love, Sex, and the IRS": Friends of the Michigan League. *Feb. 19–22.* Local theater veteran Nancy Heusel directs dessert (Feb. 19) and dinner (Feb. 20–22) theater productions of Jane Milmore and William Van Zandt's farce, an orgy of mistaken identities set in motion when 2 unemployed NYC musicians—both men—try to fool the tax man by pretending to be husband and wife. Stars Kyle Marie, Jim Nissen, Joe Medrano, Steve Jones, Lesli Weston, and Roger King. Part of the proceeds goes to U-M scholarships. *7 p.m., Michigan League Hussey Room. Dessert & show tickets $30 (students, $15) and dinner & show tickets $60 in advance only. 764–0446.*

★**"Accelerando": U-M Basement Arts.** *Feb. 19–21.* U-M theater student Laura Bennett directs Lisa Loomer's tongue-in-cheek 1991 drama about a ballet dancer named She and a classical musician named He and their bizarre one-night stand that seems to contain all the experiences of a lifetime. *7 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Studio 1, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. basement@umich.edu.*

★**History of Books & Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to join a discussion of ***The Library at Night,*** Alberto Manguel's 2008 celebration of books and the pleasure of reading. Refreshments. *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

★**Michigan Archaeological Society.** U-M anthropology professor **Henry Wright,** winner of the Archaeological Institute of America 2008 Gold Medal for Distinguished Archaeological Achievement, discusses new archaeological research on the Madagascan coast. *7:30 p.m., U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, 434 S. State. Free. (248) 437–4183.*

★**"Urban Flow: A Theater and Education Project on Cities and Lifeways in Asia": U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies/Center for South Asian Studies.** *Feb. 19 & 20.* Local actor **Gulshirin Dubash** and Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok, Thailand) theater professor **Pornrat Damrhung** direct a multimedia program that includes theater, dance, and images. *7:30 p.m., U-M Duderstadt Center Digital video studio, 2281 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 764–0532.*

★**"Music Now Fest '09": EMU Music Department.** See 18 Wednesday. Tonight: EMU music faculty and guest artists perform chamber works by this year's guest composer, **William Bolcom,** a Pulitzer Prize–winning composer who is retiring from the U-M music faculty. Program: *Five Fold Five,* 1st Piano Quartet, *Three Ghosts, Virtuosity Rag, Gospel Preludes,* and Trio for Clarinet, Violin, and Piano. Also, at 11 a.m. today, Bolcom discusses and play excerpts from his work, and at 1 & 3 p.m., open rehearsals of Bolcom's music by EMU music student ensembles. 8 p.m.

Pete George: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Feb. 19–21.* Ann Arbor debut of this actor-comedian, a Cleveland native whose act blends sparkling observational humor and sharp-witted audience interplay with rock guitar pyrotechnics. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $8 (Thurs.) & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $11 (Thurs.) & $13 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

one-man bands

Vinx

African American roots music

Vinx is a hypnotic one-man band. A bookish-looking but genial figure with black clothes, thick-framed glasses, and an orange head scarf, he takes the stage with an African drum hanging from a cord slung over his shoulder. There may be a couple of other musicians, as there were when I saw Vinx at the Detroit Institute of Arts not long ago, but they sit silently for a good part of the show, and sometimes even Vinx's drum falls silent and he sings alone.

Is Vinx's music jazz? Folk music? Soul or R&B? World music? It's simple yet unclassifiable, and that should let you know something's up. The nearest comparison for his singing would be Stevie Wonder's, free in rhythm, a bit meditative, full of melismas that bubble over into passages of vocalese. Jazz audiences feel at home with Vinx's talent for improvisation and for defining the basic structure of a piece from scratch. But for his stripped-down investigation of the essences of African American music, the folk stage of the Ark is a good place.

Just as a white singer-songwriter might reduce rock or country or classic pop to the dimensions of vocals and guitar, so Vinx suggests many kinds of African American music with his voice and drum. He does an unforgettable version of "My Funny Valentine" with the drum laying down a skittery layer underneath his elaborated version of the song's already jazzy melody. He sometimes delves into Brazilian and Caribbean flavors that commended his music to Sting, one of his longtime backers. Most of his songs are original and romantic, with a sort of contemplative lyricism that tends to hook those who've heard it once.

As so often with things that are simple but distinctive, a notable life story underlies Vinx's music. Growing up in a suburb of Kansas City, he was badly burned in a fire started by white terrorists who burned down his family's house. He recovered to make the second-longest triple jump in the world in 1979, which qualified him for the 1980 Olympics in Moscow before the United States withdrew. After that he turned to music. His father was murdered in a 1989 robbery in Detroit.

African American music tends toward attention-grabbing innovation, and musicians who do Vinx's kind of quiet distillation are rare. One of the few others is Taj Mahal, who was also among Vinx's early inspirations. Vinx has been more or less continuously creative since coming on the scene in the late 1980s, and he comes to the Ark on Thursday, February 26, with his recent, creatively overflowing CD, *50 Memoirs of a Hip Ole' Black Man.*

—James M. Manheim

20 FRIDAY

"Drum Me a Story": Wild Swan Theater. See 19 Thursday. Today's 10 a.m. show is sold out. 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. *Feb. 20–22.* This Ann Arbor–based program features 46 of the best 16- and 17-year-old American ice hockey players. The program fields 2 teams—the Under-17 Team and the Under-18 Team—that play full schedules against teams from the top American junior leagues (players ages 18–21), college teams, and comparable European national teams. Today: **Team USA Under-17 vs. Alpena** Ice Diggers of the North American Hockey League. *3 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. $12 (students & children, $6). 327–9251.*

"Artini Martini Crawl 2009": Ann Arbor Art Center Fund-Raiser. All invited to visit several downtown restaurants to taste martinis created for the occasion. Followed by a Mardi Gras–themed party and voting on the most artful martini. *6 p.m., begins at the Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. $35 in advance by Feb. 6 & $40 after Feb. 6. 995–8004, ext. 101.*

"Love, Sex, and the IRS": Friends of the Michigan League. See 19 Thursday. 6:30 p.m.

★**"Peace Generator": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** All invited to join a silent meditation on world peace, forgiveness, cooperation, and joy. *7–9 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Free. 971–8576.*

★**"Mardi Gras Madness": Ann Arbor District Library.** All 6th-graders through adults invited to make masks, necklaces, and other Mardi Gras accessories and learn about the origins and meaning of this popular international celebration, which falls on February 24 this year. Materials provided. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★**"The Art of Tribal Tattoo": Ann Arbor District Library/Slow Food Huron Valley.** Spiral Tattoo owner **Leo Zuletta** shows some of his work and discusses the process of getting a tribal tattoo. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Red: The Next Generation of American Writers—Teenage Girls—on What Fires Up Their Lives Today": Waters Place Borders.** Amy Goldwasser discusses her 2007 collection of 60 essays written by teenage girls. *7 p.m., Borders. 3140 Lohr Rd. Free. 997–8884.*

Red Barn Family English Dance: Christ the King Church. Family-friendly dancing for ages 7 & older. Also, activities for toddlers. All dances taught. No partner or experience necessary. Dress comfortably, and bring flat, nonslip shoes (running shoes OK). *7–9:30 p.m., the red barn at Domino's Farms, Via Sacra Dr. (off Ave Maria Dr. from Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). $7 (families, $14; students, $4). 665–7704.*

★**"Accelerando": U-M Basement Arts.** See 19 Thursday. 7 & 11 p.m.

★**"Kirtan": Ann Arbor Kirtan.** All invited to join a group performance of this traditional devotional call-and-response music based on Hindu Vaishnava texts and the writings of poet/saints. Accompanied by live music based on rhythmic Indian ragas on bass guitar, tabla, and drums. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free, but donations accepted. 761–7435.*

★**"Audience Participation Night": Ann Arbor Train & Trolley Watchers.** All invited to join local railfans and bring 10 minutes' worth of slides picturing trains. This year's theme is "people." *7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church social hall, 306 N. Division ("just up the hill from the Amtrak station"). Free. 996–8345, 971–8329.*

Lyle Lovett: Live Nation. Solo acoustic performance by this veteran Texas singer-songwriter who has established himself as one of the most inventive and original voices in country music since Willie Nelson. His lyrics are distinguished by their emotionally powerful down-home imagery, acidic epigrammatic wit, and subversively ironic playfulness, and his music and song forms draw imaginatively on several traditions, from jump blues, western swing, honky-tonk, and country waltzes to folk balladry and hipster jazz. Opening act is **John Hiatt,** a veteran singer-songwriter widely heralded for his blend of catchy tunes, pithy and often barbed lyrics, and a stylistic range that easily mixes folk, rock, country, and blues. His songs have been recorded by everyone from Bonnie Raitt and Bob Dylan to Iggy Pop, Aaron Neville, and Conway Twitty. *7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $49.50–$59.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

★**"Urban Flow: A Theater and Education Project on Cities and Lifeways in Asia": U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies/Center for South Asian Studies.** See 19 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

Alex James Karpicke & Britta Stifler: Canterbury House. This Grand Rapids chamber pop duo of guitarist Karpicke and cellist Stifler plays mellow poetic tunes about nature, Michigan, days spent indoors with old vinyl records, roaming packs of wolves, and silent mysterious owls. *8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. $10 (students & seniors, $5). 761–3162.*

"The Joint Is Jumpin'!": The Choral Connection. *Feb. 20 & 21.* Carolyn Tjon Burnstein directs this 20-member song-and-dance troupe in a musical revue of vintage American pop, including Broadway favorites, humorous parodies, and songs by Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Richard Rodgers, George Gershwin, and others. *8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. $15 in advance at brownpapertickets.com and at the door. To charge by phone, call (800) 838–3006. 482–7898.*

Matt Watroba and Robert Jones: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). Double bill. WDET DJ Watroba sings lyrical songs and poignant ballads in a sweet tenor voice, accompanying himself on guitar and punctuating his performance with sharply humorous observations. The host of WDET's *Blues from the Lowlands,* Jones is an excellent singer and guitarist, with a huge repertoire that draws on Delta, Texas, Chicago, and other blues traditions. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $12 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

"Music Now Fest '09": EMU Music Department. See 18 Wednesday. Tonight: EMU music-student ensembles perform 3 works by the festival guest composer **William Bolcom** (see 19 Thursday). Program: *Commedia, Song,* and "Machine" from Symphony no. 5. Also, at 2 p.m. in Alexander Recital Hall, Bolcom participates in a discussion on contemporary music with a panel of composers and the audience, and at 11 a.m. & 4 p.m. in Pease, open rehearsals of Bolcom's music by EMU music student ensembles. 8 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Pete George: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 19 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

21 SATURDAY

★**AGLOW International.** Talk by Shekinah Christian Church pastor Joyce Gamlin. AGLOW is a network of Christian women who meet for prayer and community outreach. Women of all faiths invited. Light refreshments. *9:30 a.m.–noon, WCC Liberal Arts Bldg., room 340, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 971–4545.*

★**"Great Lakes Orchid Judging": American Orchid Society.** All invited to view flowering orchids. Awards

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23rd Annual Winter Fleece Fair: Spinners Flock. A huge array of hand-spun yarns and fibers for spinning and felting, such as mohair, alpaca, llama, Angora bunny, and Michigan-grown wools, as well as silk, linen, and cotton. Also, sheepskins, quilt batts, and supplies for spinning, weaving, and knitting (including spinning wheels and dyes). Members offer demos throughout the day. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Beach Middle School, 445 Mayer, Chelsea. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 747–8112, 769–1657.*

"Jamie and Jordan": Performance Network Children's Theater Network. Premiere of Royal Oak playwright Kim Carney and composer Gene Gaunt's kids musical about 2 neighbors who are lifelong friends until a twist of fate—and a twisted ankle—separates them. Followed by a milk & cookies reception. *11 a.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $10 (youth 16 & under, $7) in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. For reservations or to charge by phone, call 663–0681.*

"Drum Me a Story": Wild Swan Theater. See 19 Thursday. 11 a.m.

★**"Kids Club: How to Make Play Dough and Healthy Snacks": Cranbrook Whole Foods Market.** Kids ages 3–12, accompanied by a parent, invited to make play dough and a healthy snack. *1 p.m., Whole Foods, Cranbrook Village shopping center, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy. Free. 997–7507.*

Chili Cook-Off: Manchester Men's Club. At least 25 local amateur cooks regularly compete in this spicy-chili fest. Samples for sale after the judging. Beverages available. *1–9 p.m., Manchester Legion Hall, 203 Adrian St., Manchester. $3. 428–9166.*

"Animal Tracks on T-Shirts": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck shows how to make an animal track design on a T-shirt. BYO shirt. *2 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. Preregistration required. $4 vehicle entrance fee. 426–8211.*

★**"The Story of the Children's Crusade": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local singer and storyteller **Tiana Marquez** presents a program for preschoolers through 5th-graders about the children who marched with Martin Luther King. In conjunction with Black History Month. *2–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

"Buhr Blitz": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. Public skating, with a family-oriented program of games and contests. Prizes. *2:30–4:30 p.m., Buhr Park Ice Rink, 2751 Packard. $6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $5). Skate rentals ($3) available. 971–3228.*

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 20 Friday. Today: **Team USA Under-18 vs. St. Louis** (3:30 p.m.) Bandits of the North American Hockey League and **Team USA Under-17 vs. Alpena** (7 p.m.) Ice Diggers of the North American Hockey League. 3:30 & 7 p.m.

★**"Food Additives and Your Health": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers.** Talk by local holistic health consultant Amanda Jordan. *4–5 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers Studio B, 2007 S. State. Free; donations accepted. 945–8602.*

Annual Ham Dinner: Dixboro United Methodist Church. Juicy slabs of ham and side dishes that include scalloped potatoes, coleslaw, applesauce, trimmings, rolls, and beverages served buffet style. Proceeds benefit the church. Takeout available. *5–7 p.m., DUMC, 5221 Church Rd. (off N. Dixboro Rd. just north of Plymouth Rd.). $8 (kids ages 5–10, $5; kids age 4 & younger, $1). Reservations requested. 665–5632.*

★**Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers.** *Feb. 21 & 28.* A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments at the Peach Mountain Observatory. Participants are encouraged to bring their own telescopes as well. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset or if the weather is extremely inclement. *6 p.m.–12:30 a.m. (as long as the sky remains clear), Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1¼ miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark), Dexter. Free. 332–9132.*

"Winter Beach Blast": Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Fund-Raiser. A beach-themed party with stand-up comedy by **Mike Green** (8:30 p.m.), a popular young comic who performs with a nervous energy that regularly explodes into bizarre observations and goofy enlightenments about jumping rope, talking sirens, bar codes, and other pointless things you've never stopped to think about. Followed by live music by the Detroit classic rock band **50 Amp Fuse** (9:30 p.m.–1 a.m.). Also, appetizers and a silent auction. *6:30 p.m.–1 a.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $35 in advance at cfpartyforbreath.com and at the door. 429–2269.*

"All the World's a Stage": Performance Network Benefit Gala. Hors d'oeuvres accompanied by performances by Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts students, followed by a gourmet dinner, dessert, and a cabaret performance by **Naz Edwards.** Live and silent auctions. *6:30 p.m., Four Points by Sheraton, 3200 Boardwalk (off Eisenhower east of S. State), Tickets $125 in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. For reservations or to charge by phone, call 663–0696.*

"Love, Sex, and the IRS": Friends of the Michigan League. See 19 Thursday. 6:30 p.m.

"Owl Prowl": Leslie Science and Nature Center. Leslie Science and Nature Center staff members present a program that includes hikes through Black Pond Woods and presentations with live owls to learn how ears, eyes, and feathers help owls survive in the night. *7–9 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $8 (family, $5). 997–1533.*

★**"Under the Hunger Moon": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** A nighttime hike to call for owls, stargaze, and listen for nocturnal mammals. Followed by hot drinks and snacks around the campfire. *7–9 p.m., Independence Lake County Park Beach Center, 3200 Jennings (north off North Territorial), Webster Twp. Free. $5 vehicle entry fee. 971–6337, ext. 334.*

★**"Accelerando": U-M Basement Arts.** See 19 Thursday. 7 p.m.

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Cobblestone Farm Dancers. Robin Warner and Peter Baker call to music by a band TBA. No partner needed; all dances taught; beginners welcome. Lesson at 7:45 p.m. Wear cool, casual clothes and comfy, flat, smooth-soled shoes. Also, a free open jam for string and other musicians, 3–6 p.m. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $10. 426–0241.*

"Playing and Shouting the Blues!": Kerrytown Concert House. Solo performance by **Johnny O'Neal,** a veteran Detroit pianist and vocalist known for his blend of technical virtuosity and interpretive sensitivity. O'Neal has played with the likes of Milt Jackson, Art Blakey, and Wynton Marsalis, and he appeared as the legendary pianist Art Tatum in the acclaimed 2004 Ray Charles biopic *Ray. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"The Joint Is Jumpin'!": The Choral Connection. See 20 Friday. 8 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Mad Lib Puppet Show": Dreamland Theater. See 7 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Pete George: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 19 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Girls Night \aut\ with Tracy Mack": Sh\aut\ Cabaret and Gallery. Performances by local blues-rock and folk-rock singer-songwriter Mack and Boone, North Carolina, funk, blues, and jazz singer-songwriter **Crys Matthews.** *9 p.m.–midnight, Sh\aut\, 325 Braun Ct. $5 cover. 663–0036.*

Benefit Dance Party: Heavy Manners Social Club. Dancing to music spun by DJs Chuck Sipperley and Brett Lyman. Proceeds benefit Avalon Housing. *10 p.m.–2 a.m., Elks Lodge, 220 W. Sunset. $3. 272–9513.*

22 SUNDAY

"Afternoon Tea": TeaHaus/Cake Nouveau. A traditional English tea with scones, finger sandwiches, sweets, and tea. Also, a TeaHaus staffer gives a brief history of English tea traditions. *10 a.m. and 1 & 4 p.m., Cake Nouveau, 206 N. Fourth Ave. $26.50 ($50 per twosome). Reservations required. 662–0460.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Iowa. *Time TBA, Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

★**Children's Game Day: Tree Town Toys.** All kids ages 3–8 invited to play some of the store's games. *1–3 p.m., Tree Town Toys, Traver Village, 2611 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration requested. 929–6545.*

★**"Rock Band Star Jams": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to come as a band or join one on the spot to show off their rock band skills using this popular video game. Prizes for top 3 bands. *1–4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Winter Walkabout": Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy/Superior Land Conservancy.** All invited for refreshments and socializing, followed at 2 p.m. by a leisurely 1½-mile walk in the nearby Cherry Hill Nature Preserve. Dress for the weather. *1:15 p.m., Superior Township Hall, 3040 N. Prospect at Cherry Hill, Superior Twp. Free. 484–6565.*

★**"Tombstone Symbols": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County.** Talk by Ann Arbor's longtime unofficial city historian **Wystan Stevens,** an unfailingly entertaining and informative speaker. Followed by **"Where to Start?,"** a talk for beginning genealogists by club member Barbara Giezentaner. *1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off E. Huron River Dr. at Clark Rd.). Use parking lot P and look for the club's signs. Free. 483–2799.*

★**"Manic Defenses Against Loneliness in Adolescence": Michigan Psychoanalytic Society.** Lecture by Hanna Perkins Center for Child Development director Thomas Barrett. *2–4 p.m., 4448 East Hall, 530 Church. Free. (248) 851–3380.*

★**Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild.** All invited to listen to guild members swap stories or bring their own to tell. *2–4 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–5763.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 2 p.m.

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 20 Friday. Today: **Team USA Under-18 vs. St. Louis** Bandits of the North American Hockey League. 3 p.m.

★**"Myths and Legends": Dexter Community Band.** Bill Gourley directs this 85-member volunteer ensemble in a program highlighted by *Soaring*, a John Williams movie music medley arranged by Robert W. Smith, and *The King of Swing*, a Benny Goodman medley arranged by Paul Murtha. Also, Mayheu Lake's suite arrangement of Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*, "Jupiter" from Holst's *The Planets*, "Gandalf" from Johan de Meij's *Lord of the Rings Symphony*, and Clark McAlister's arrangement of the Introduction to act 3 of Wagner's *Lohengrin*. *3 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker, Dexter. Free. 426–2734.*

Children's Puppet Shows: Dreamland Theater. See 1 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

Vitezslav Cernoch: Great Lakes Performing Artists Association. Chamber music by this award-winning Czech violinist, who was 1st violinist in the Stamic String Quartet and played with the Prague Symphony Orchestra. *4 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10, $15, $25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"Classical Indian Drumming": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers. Local percussionist Dan Piccolo, the drummer in the local Afrobeat-jazz band Nomo, plays traditional percussion instruments in classic Indian styles and demonstrates the drumming techniques used in Indian music. Also, Piccolo leads a free family-friendly drum circle, 6:30–7:30 p.m. *5:30–6:30 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers Studio B, 2007 S. State. $10. 945–8602.*

★**Society of Women Engineers Book Club: Liberty Borders.** All invited to join a discussion of ***The Places in Between,*** Rory Stewart's 2006 account of his trek through Afghanistan. *6–8 p.m., Borders cafe, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

"Love, Sex, and the IRS": Friends of the Michigan League. See 19 Thursday. 6:30 p.m.

"Sunday Night Live!": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers. A family-friendly concert featuring local singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist **Spencer Michaud** and guest musicians TBA. *7–9 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers, 2007 S. State. $5. 945–8602.*

"Behind the Mask": Washtenaw County Red Cross Fund-Raiser. A masquerade inspired by Mardi Gras, the Brazilian Carnival, and Venetian masquerades. Dancing to a DJ, food, beverages, and a performance of the Brazilian martial-art dance capoeira. *8 p.m.–2 a.m., Babs' Underground Lounge, 213 S. Ashley. Tickets $35 in advance & $40 at the door. 260–1308.*

23 MONDAY

★**"Super Smash Brothers Regulation Throwdown": Ann Arbor District Library.** All players from 6th-graders to adults invited to compete in a tournament playing Super Smash Brothers. Prizes. *6–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

24 TUESDAY

★**"Mardi Gras Party": Barnes & Noble.** All kids invited to make their own Mardi Gras masks, enjoy Mardi Gras music, and join a parade through the store to look for hidden treasures. Refreshments. *11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**Peter Robinson: Aunt Agatha's.** This veteran award-winning English mystery writer discusses ***All the Colors of Darkness,*** the 14th in his series about a Yorkshire police inspector, who this time investigates the apparent suicide of a man found hanging in the woods. Signing. *1 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–1114.*

★**Kids Open Play: Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades K–5 invited to play the library's video games. Bring your own Nintendo DS, if you like, for impromptu games. *1–5 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**LittleBigPlanet Tournament: Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades 6–12 invited to play this popular new video game for 4 players. Prizes. *6–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

"Cajun Mardi Gras Dinner": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Zingerman's Roadhouse sous chef (and New Orleans native) Julio Vanderpool hosts a traditional Cajun Mardi Gras dinner Preceded at 6 p.m. by a book signing. *7 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson. $45. Beverages available a la carte. Space limited; reservations required. 663–FOOD.*

25 WEDNESDAY

★**PL2: Public Library Pokemon League: Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades K–5 invited to bring a Nintendo DS and a copy of Pokemon Diamond or Pearl to compete for prizes. *1–5 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Yoga Storytime": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades K–3 invited to listen to stories and act them out using yoga poses. *2–2:45 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Ypsilanti–Ann Arbor Area Robotics Club.** All invited to meet robotics hobbyists and check out and informally discuss their current gadgets and toys. *7 p.m., A2 Mech Shop, 240 Parkland Plaza, 179 Little Lake Dr. (off eastbound Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). Free. 332–1000.*

★**"The Art of Gourmet Pizza Making": Ann Arbor District Library.** Cottage Inn representatives discuss the history of pizza, pizza recipes, what makes a good crust, and more. Taste samples. For 6th-graders through adults. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Seeing in the Dark: How Amateur Astronomers Are Discovering the Wonders of the Universe": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to join a discussion of best-selling freelance science writer Timothy Ferris's award-winning account of the explosion of amateur astronomy. The book has been chosen for the annual Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads community-wide reading program. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Tales of Tanzania": Pittsfield Union Grange.** Slide-illustrated talk by Grange members Dave and Marty Wilson. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a potluck (bring a dish to pass; table service provided). *7:15 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). Free. 769–1052.*

★**"Works of Divinity": Ann Arbor Bonsai Society.** Screening of this documentary about bonsai master Shinji Suzuki and the year he spent creating a masterpiece bonsai. Followed by discussion. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free admission. 747–6493.*

★**Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group: Deep Spring Center.** All invited to share their spiritual and metaphysical questions with others with similar interests. The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky. Aaron offers a talk on our relationship to others and to the earth. Also, socializing. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Deep Spring Center, 3003 Washtenaw, suite 2 (entrance on Glenwood, next to Arby's). Free, but donations are accepted. 477–5848.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 11 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

26 THURSDAY

"Tea with the Fairies": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Crazy Wisdom staff dress up as magical fairies to sprinkle fairy dust and serve tea, petits fours, and cookies to kids and their families. Also, fairy stories and readings. Bring your own fairy wings and dolls. *1 & 4 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. $10.50 (babies age 18 months & younger, free). Preregistration required. 665–9468.*

★**"Creature Teachers": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades K–5 invited to visit with live animals from Copper Leaf Crossing in Lodi Township, including a sloth, an alligator, and owl, and more. *2–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Cheese Tasting": Ann Arbor District Library.** Morgan & York staff discuss how to evaluate the flavors of cheese and offer taste samples of some fine European and American cheeses. For 6th-graders through adults. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Money Saving Remedies: Grow It, Find It, Make It Yourself": People's Food Co-op.** Talk by local holistic health practitioner **Linda Feldt.** *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. 994–4589.*

★**"UFOs over Michigan": Ann Arbor District Library.** Mutual UFO Network Michigan chapter director William Konkolesky discusses UFO sightings over Michigan. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**Julie Hyzy, Michael Black, and Tony Perona: Aunt Agatha's.** These 3 mystery writers discuss their

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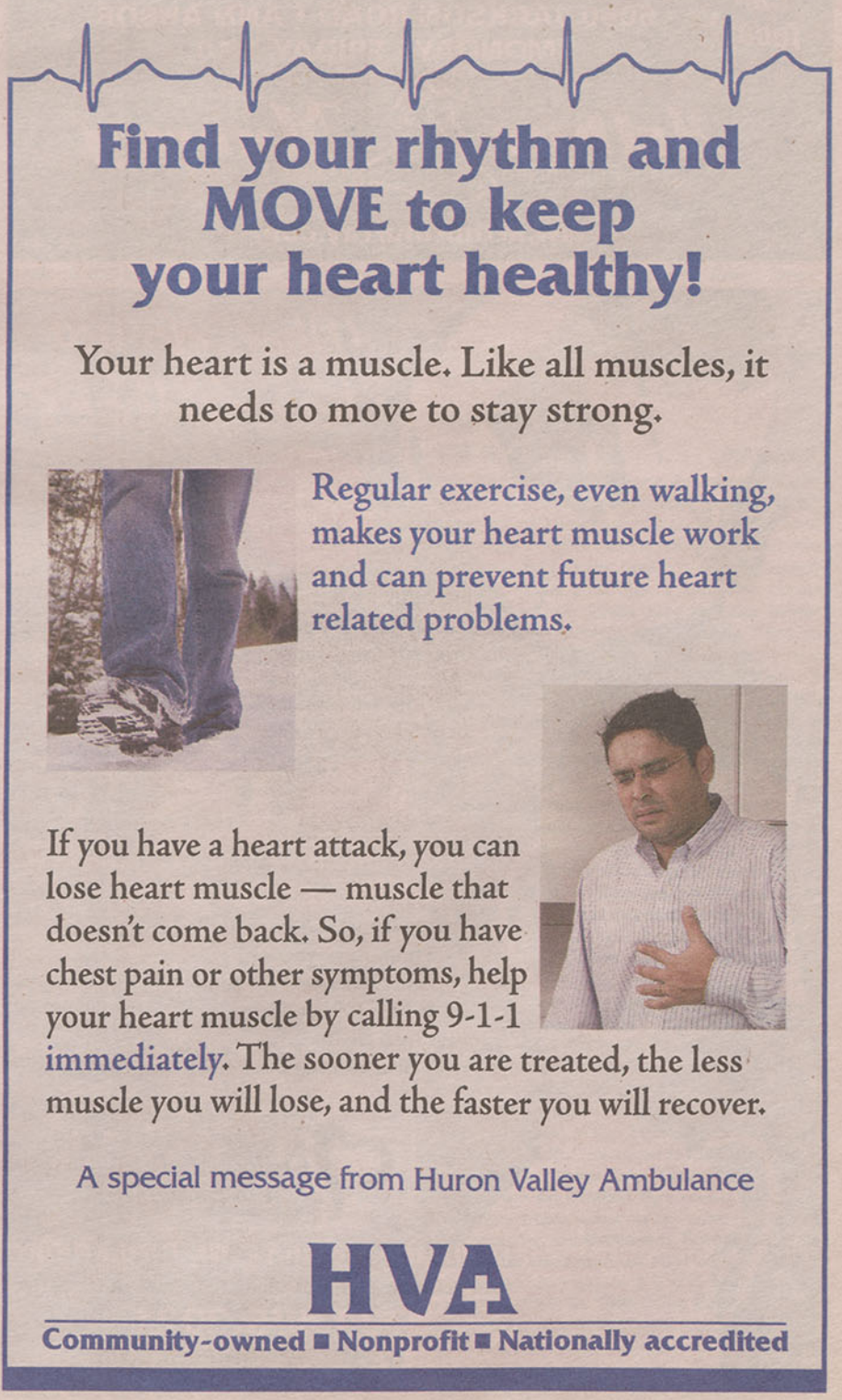
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new books. Chicago writer Hyzy's ***Hail to the Chef*** is about a White House executive chef who is an amateur detective, Chicago police sergeant Black's ***Windy City Knights*** features a PI who is also a kickboxer, and Perona's ***Second Advent*** features a former investigative reporter and stay-at-home dad who is also an amateur detective. These writers are in town for the Midwest regional chapter meeting of the Mystery Writers of America. The meeting, held at Aunt Agatha's at 7 p.m. on February 25, is open to the public. Signing. *1:30 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–1114.*

★**"YCB Turns 30": Ypsilanti Community Band.** To celebrate the 30th anniversary of this 70-member adult band, past YCB conductors lead the band in Earle Hagen's "Harlem Nocturne," Pat Padilla's "La Cancion del Dragon Negro," Timothy Johnson's *Variants on an Irish Folk Tune,* Sousa's "Golden Jubilee," 3 Grainger folk song settings—"Country Gardens," "Australian Up-Country Tune," and "Irish Tune from County Derry"—and more. *7:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 905–5453.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Chili Challis: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Feb. 25–28.* This Cincinnati native is a sharp-witted observational humorist known for his cutting, sometimes sarcastic commentary on politics and other topical matters. A former writer for both Jay Leno and the *Mother Goose and Grimm* comic strip, Challis was nominated for a regional Emmy for his contribution to Pulitzer Prize–winning political cartoonist Mike Peters's *Pen of Mike Peters* feature. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $7 (Thurs.) & $9 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $10 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Purdue. *9 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

27 FRIDAY

★**Lenten Recital Series: American Guild of Organists.** *Every Fri. through Apr. 3.* Noontime concerts by professional and student organists on the First Congregational Church's mighty Wilhelm organ. Today's organists are **Thomas Strode** and **James Wagner.** *Noon, First Congregational Church, 608 E. William. Free. 662–4466.*

★**Magician Jeff Wawrzaszek: Ann Arbor District Library.** Performance by this popular, award-winning magician. For preschoolers through 5th-graders. *2–3 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

31st Annual Lenten Fish Fry: Old St. Patrick's Church. *Every Fri., Feb. 27–Apr. 3.* Fried Alaskan pollack, choice of potato, salad bar, and beverage. Desserts available for a nominal additional charge. Beer & wine available for donation. Be prepared to stand in line, but the food is worth the wait. *4:30–8 p.m., Old St. Pat's parish hall, 5671 Whitmore Lake Rd. at Northfield Church (3 miles north of Ann Arbor). $7.50 (seniors, $7; children 5–11, $6.50; children 4 & under, free). 662–8141.*

Parents' Night Out: Ann Arbor YMCA. Parents can drop off their kids ages 2–10 for dinner, games and sports, and (age 5 & older only) a dip in the pool. *6:15–10 p.m., YMCA, 400 W. Washington. $30 (members, $25). Preregistration required. 661–8012.*

★**"Sing Along with Mr. Seley": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades K–5 invited to join Covington Middle School (Birmingham) teacher Tom Seley to sing songs from his new CD, *Eat Your Books and Read Your Vegetables. 7–7:45 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"You Can Heal Your Life": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers.** Screening of this 2007 documentary based on motivational writer Louise Hay's popular 1984 self-help book. *7–9 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers Studio B, 2007 S. State. Free. 945–8602.*

"Dawn Dance Weekend": Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. *Feb. 27 & 28 and Mar. 1.* A weekend of folk dancing to live music, with around 400 people expected to dance or just listen to the many fine musicians. Tonight: Danika Murray and Robert Cromartie call **contras** to music by the Latter Day Lizards in the gym, and Gene Murrow calls **English country dances** to music by Childgrove in the cafeteria. Wear clean, soft-soled shoes for dancing (no dancing in street shoes allowed). *8 p.m.–midnight, Clague Middle School, 2616 Nixon Rd. just east of Bluett. $20 (Feb. 27), $18 (Feb. 28 afternoon), $20 (Feb. 28 evening), & $16 (Mar. 1) at the door. Weekend pass $60 (youth and AACTMAD members, $55 in advance only. 677–0212.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 8 p.m.

Chili Challis: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 26 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

28 SATURDAY

"Maple Sugaring: A Journey to the Sugar Bush": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. *Every Sat. & Sun., Feb. 28–Mar. 29.* Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck discusses the history of maple sugaring and leads a hike to a stand of maple trees to see how they are tapped, followed by a trip to an evaporator to learn how sap is turned into syrup. Also, a pancake and sausage breakfast, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. *10 & 11 a.m. and noon, Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2 ($5.50 includes breakfast). Preregistration required. $4 vehicle entrance fee. 426–8211.*

"Dawn Dance Weekend": Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. See 27 Friday. Today: In the gym, Robert Cromartie calls **contras** to music by the Scalar Scalawags (noon), Gene Murrow calls **English country dances** to music by the Latter Day Lizards (1:30 p.m.), **open swing dancing** (3 p.m.), and Cromartie calls **contras** to music by the Scalar Scalawags and the Latter Day Lizards (7:30 p.m.–midnight). In the cafeteria, Gaye Fifer leads an **intermediate waltz** workshop (noon), **open waltzing** to music by Aunt Lu (1:30 p.m.), Gaye Fifer calls **Dutch Crossing** to music by Aunt Lu (3 p.m.), and Ray Bantle and Murrow call **English country dances** to music by Childgrove (7:30 p.m.–midnight). In the music room, a **nyckelharpa demo** and concert by Brad Battey (noon), a workshop TBA led by Cromartie (1:30 p.m.), a **recorder workshop** led by Murrow (3 p.m.). Noon–midnight.

★**"Sap to Syrup: Doing It Yourself": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner discusses and demonstrates the steps of maple sugaring for those who'd like to try it at home, including tree ID, tapping, and harvesting and boiling the sap. Dress for the weather. *1–2:30 p.m., County Parks Field Operations Bldg., County Farm Park, Platt Rd. entrance (south of Washtenaw). Free. Preregistration required. 971–6337, ext. 334.*

★**"The World in Your Mailbox: Real Photo Postcards from the Early 20th Century": U-M Clements Library.** Talk by vintage photography dealer and collector Doug Aikenhead. *1:30 p.m., Clements Library, 909 South University. Free. 764–2347.*

★**"Beyond Earth: Exploring Outer Space! Planet Adventures": U-M Exhibit Museum/Ann Arbor District Library.** See 8 Sunday. *10–11 a.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard), 2–3 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3334 Traver at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Yo Yo Wow": Ann Arbor District Library.** Current Michigan and U.S. Mideast regional yo-yo champion **Chris Fraser,** a 15-year-old who has competed in the national and world championships, demonstrates his skills, teaches some tricks, and offers tips to aspiring yo-yo masters in grades 4–12. *2–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

"Creative Energy Dance (Water/Air/Earth)": Nightfire. Members of this local dance theater troupe lead participants in a session of freestyle dancing based on everyday movements, with a focus on the theme of the elements of water, air, and earth. *3–5 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe. $5–$20 sliding scale. 996–1772.*

★**Habitat for Humanity Fund-Raiser.** A silent auction and an Italian dinner, including chicken cacciatore, Italian sausage, lasagna, pasta, pizza, salad, dessert, and beverages. *4:30–7 p.m., Dexter United Methodist Church, 7643 Huron River Dr., Dexter. $8 (seniors age 60 & older, $7; kids ages 5–12, $5; kids age 4 & under, free). 426–8480.*

Annual Fund-Raising Banquet: Washtenaw County Pheasants Forever. A casual buffet dinner with live and silent auctions of wildlife paintings, carvings, hunting trips, guns, and other goods. Also, raffles, door prizes, games, and more. Proceeds benefit the group's efforts to establish and preserve local wildlife habitats for the ring-necked pheasant. *5:30 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (at Pleasant Lake Rd.). $60 ($90 per couple), includes WCPF membership fee. Reservations required. 429–2334.*

U-M Women's Gymnastics vs. Nebraska. *6 p.m., Crisler Arena, S. State at Hoover. $3 (youths age 12 & under, $1; U-M students, free). 763–2159.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Ferris State. *8 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. $12–$17. 764–0247.*

The 6-foot Poles: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704 Coffeehouse. Veteran local quintet that plays retro rock and classic Motown. Opening act is **Dave Clark,** a bluegrass guitarist from Atlanta. *8–10 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. $10 at the door only. 665–0409.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Sunday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Chili Challis: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 26 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Music at Nightspots

by John Hinchey

Listings are based on information available at press time. Last-minute changes are always possible, so it's advisable to call ahead. Unless otherwise noted, live music runs from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

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Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music almost every night at 8 p.m., Mon–Sat., & 7:30 p.m., Sun. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are sold in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. **Feb. 2: The Iguanas.** A mix of Tex-Mex, rock 'n' roll, Cajun, zydeco, and Louisiana funk by this New Orleans party band. The band's fans include Dave Alvin, who has written several songs for them. $17.50. **Feb. 3: "From the Jayhawks: Mark Olson and Gary Louris."** *See review, p. 27.* Performance by these 2 founding singer-songwriters of the Jayhawks, the seminal country-flavored folk-rock Minneapolis trio whose blend of Dylan, the Beatles, and Buck Owens was a major influence on the emergence of alt-country. $25. **Feb. 4: Griffin House.** Nashville-based roots-oriented pop-rock singer-songwriter whose influences range from Woody Guthrie to Wilco. *Note:* House showcases material from his new CD *Flying Upside Down* in a free performance 12:30 p.m. this afternoon at Liberty Borders. $12.50. **Feb. 5: Guggenheim Grotto.** Acclaimed Dublin pop-folk trio known for its soaring melodies and gorgeous vocal harmonies. "With debts to both Radiohead and the Beatles, this is modern, intelligent, lyrically potent pop," says a *Boston Herald* reviewer. "Nearly the only thing overtly Irish about the Grotto is its love affair with words." $13.50. **Feb. 6: "All That . . . Jazzistry."** Local saxophonist and clarinetist Vincent York leads **Jazzistry,** his educational jazz history ensemble, in a program of favorite hits from its past shows. With trumpeter Paul Finkbeiner, vibes player Rob Pipho, saxophonist and clarinetist Ernie Rogers, trombonist Dennis Wilson, guitarist Ronald English, pianist Alma Smith, bassist John Dana, and drummer George Bennett Jr. A benefit for Jazzistry. $45 ($80 for 2) in advance at 761–6024, $60 at the door. **Feb. 7: Yiddishe Cup.** Acclaimed Cleveland-based klezmer band known for its blend of ensemble virtuosity and wacky humor rooted in a 50s Borscht Belt ethos, with a repertoire ranging from traditional material to "Gentle on My Mind" and "Meshugeneh Mambo," the title track of its latest CD. Dance floor available. $20. **Feb. 8: Greensky Bluegrass.** Kalamazoo bluegrass band that won the 2006 Telluride Bluegrass Band Competition. $15. **Feb. 9: Buckwheat Zydeco.** Buckwheat Zydeco is the stage name of Stanley Dural, a celebrated zydeco accordionist who, legend has it, took up the instrument in response to a challenge from zydeco king Clifton Chenier, in whose band Dural was playing keyboards. Zydeco is the joyous Creole music with the distinctive zigzag beat, and Dural's brand of this music has a very strong blues bias, with a large dose of New Orleans R&B. $20. **Feb. 10: Raisin Pickers and The Heatons.** Double bill. The Raisin Pickers is a veteran Manchester-based string ensemble that plays old-time jug band dance music, western swing, and newgrass. The Heatons are Matt & Shannon Heaton, an acclaimed husband-and-wife duo from Boston who play rootsy Irish music. $15. **Feb. 11: Tannahill Weavers.** Veteran Scottish quintet that plays traditional Celtic music with the rhythmic drive and urgency of rock 'n' roll. The instrumentation is a rich blend of stringed and wind instruments, including Highland pipes. $20. **Feb. 12: My Folky Valentine.** In-the-round performances by 5 veteran Ann Arbor/Detroit-area husband-and-wife singer-songwriter duos, including folk-rock by Annie and Rod Capps, bluesy folk by Jan Krist and Alan Finkbeiner, folk-rock by Allison Downey and John Austin, Celtic-American fusion by J. Oscar and Lauran Bittenger, and John and C. J. Milroy of the alt-country band Tangerine Trousers. $20. **Feb. 15: Matt Wertz.** Acoustic pop-rock singer-songwriter from Kansas City. $15. **Feb. 17: Beausoleil.** Led by fiddler Michael Doucet, Beausoleil is one of the most influential bands in the revival of interest in the Cajun music of French Louisiana. Its repertoire includes everything from Cajun, Creole, and medieval French music to zydeco, New Orleans jazz, island rhythms, and southern boogie. A big favorite with local audiences. Dance floor available. $25. **Feb. 18: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. Fifteen acts are selected randomly from those who sign up to perform 8 minutes (or 2 songs) each. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. $3 (members & students, $2). 7:30–10 p.m. **Feb. 19: Steppin' in It.** Popular Lansing string band that plays everything from bluegrass, country-folk, and country blues to Cajun, western swing, and calypso. Opening act is **The Wiyos,** an eclectic roots-music swing quartet from Brooklyn, New York, whose influences range from Tin-Pan Alley to Texas. $15. **Feb. 20: Po' Girl.** All-female alt-folk acoustic quartet from Vancouver whose music blends Depression-era blues & jazz, Cajun, and R&B flavors, spiked with a streak of edgy street punk poetry. "It's the lazy sway of Po' Girl's music, a hypnotic and humid sway that's hard to resist," says *All Music Guide* writer David Jeffries in his review of the band's debut CD *Vagabond Lullabies*. "The porches in Vancouver must be wonderful places to play music, since there is a genuine smile that comes through Po' Girl's music, and despite all the wandering, the tunes always come home in the end." The band has a brand-new CD, *Deer in the Night*. **Feb. 21: Jimmy Gaudreau & Moondi Klein and The RFD Boys.** Double bill. Mandolinist Gaudreau and vocalist Klein, both members of the now-defunct contemporary bluegrass band Chesapeake, recently released *2:10 Train,* a CD that fuses 30s-style brother-duo harmonies with contemporary pop-folk textures. The RFD Boys is a veteran local bluegrass band whose shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. They have several recordings, including *Live and Unrehearsed,* a 1994 Ark performance. $15. **Feb. 24: Luke Brindley.** Pop-rock New Jersey–bred, D.C.-based singer-songwriter with a poetic flair whose influences range from Dylan and Van Morrison to Nick Drake and Paul Westerberg. FREE. **Feb. 25: Slide.** This acclaimed acoustic septet from Cork is known for its energetic, vibrantly colored arrangements of traditional Irish music, along with original tunes that draw on traditional tunes and rhythms. "Slide burrow deep beneath tunes, propelled by the finesse of bouzouki, flute, concertina, and fiddle," says *Irish Times* critic Siobhan Long in his review of the band's recent CD *Overneath*. $15. **Feb. 26: Vinx.** *See review, p. 48.* Vinx is the stage name of Vincent De Jon Parette, an African American singer-songwriter and percussionist from Kansas City whose style blends jazz, reggae, 40s ballads, and African elements into an idiom he calls "primal, Neolithic, prehistoric pop." His 1991 debut CD, *Rooms in My Fatha's House*, was produced by Sting and featured guest appearances by Sting, Herbie Hancock, and Taj Mahal. A big hit in earlier local appearances. $15. **Feb. 27: Claire Lynch Band.** Bluegrass-based ensemble led by Lynch, a veteran singer-songwriter whose pointed, incisively evocative songs have been covered by everyone from Patty Loveless and Kathy Mattea to the Seldom Scene. She's also one of the best singers in country music, with a high, trebly voice that's both sweet and gutsy. Her music ranges from straight-ahead bluegrass to adventurous forays with bluegrass instrumentation into pop, country, and rock terrain. $15. **Feb. 28: Down the Line.** Soul-inflected acoustic country-rock quartet from Chicago that features bluegrass instrumentation, original songs with rock 'n' roll attitude, and Crosby, Stills & Nash–style vocal harmonies, along with an engaging sense of fun. $15.

The B-Side

310 E. Washington **214–9995**

This all-ages venue in the Neutral Zone teen center features a mix of touring, local, and teen bands, usually Sat., 7–11 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Feb. 26: The Music Tapes.** Experimental indie pop band from Athens, Georgia, led by Julian Koster, a singer-songwriter who accompanies himself on a variety of string instruments, as well as a musical saw. Opening acts are **Nana Grizol,** a horn-inflected rock band from Athens, and **Brian Dewan,** an upstate New York folk-rock singer-songwriter who accompanies himself on a homemade zither.

The Black Pearl

302 S. Main **222–0400**

This seafood and martini bar features live music Mon. & Wed., 6:30–9:30 p.m., & a DJ Sun., 9 p.m.–midnight. No cover, no dancing. **Feb. 2: Jody Raffoul.** Detroit pop-rock singer-songwriter who's been described as a hybrid mix of Bono and Bruce Springsteen. **Feb. 4: Charlie Lambrick.** Detroit blues-rock singer-guitarist. **Feb. 9: Jody Raffoul.** See above. **Feb. 11: Laith Al-Saadi.** Soulful acoustic rock and blues covers and originals by this local singer-guitarist. **Feb. 18: Chris Genteel & Gregg Leonard.** Rock and soul covers and originals by this local duo. **Feb. 23: Laith Al-Saadi.** See above. **Feb. 25: Jody Raffoul.** See above.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. **996–8555**

This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional early shows, usually 7–10 p.m. Karaoke on Mon.; closed most Sun. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. If advance tickets are sold, they are available at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets. **Feb. 1: "Bring Your Own Jukebox."** All invited to bring vinyl records to be played by DJ Squish. **Feb. 3: Project/Object.** Frank Zappa tribute band from New York. Advance tickets: $12 ($15 at the door). **Feb. 4: The Virgins.** Neo–New Wave R&B band from New York City. Opening acts are **Lissy Trullie,** a New York City rock trio led by singer-songwriter Trullie that plays what the *Village Voice* calls "Velvets/Television pre-punk clean-tone three-chord stuff", and **Anya Marina,** an indie pop singer-songwriter from L.A. Advance tickets: $10 ($12 at the door). 8 p.m.–midnight. **Feb. 5: Ceton Clawson Revolution.** Saline rock 'n' roll band. Opening acts are the local psychedelic-blues garage trio **Sik Sik Nation,** the Ottawa punk-metal quartet **Tokyo Sex Whale,** and **Tone and Niche,** a Detroit indie pop-rock quintet fronted by singer-guitarist Anthony Retka and singer-violinist Nicole Varga. **Feb. 6: Arbor Soul Club.** Classic soul music by the local DJ duo of Brad Hales and Robert Wells. **Feb. 7: "Bob Marley Birthday Bash."** Headliner is **Mad Professor,** a dub reggae pioneer from Georgetown, Guyana. Opening acts are **Macka B,** a veteran British reggae singer whose music mixes together dancehall and dub styles, and **Universal Xpression,** a veteran Detroit-based band that plays reggae, soca, and calypso. Advance tickets: $16 ($20 at the door). 8 p.m.–2 a.m. **Feb. 9: "Blind Pig Roller Races."** All invited to race on stationary bikes whose virtual speed is electronically monitored. At the end of the night, the top 2 performers race for the evening's championship. Age 21 & older admitted. No cover.

JULIAN KONWINSKI

blues

Lady Sunshine and the X Band

Rhythm and a woman's blues

A typical performance from Lady Sunshine and the X Band begins with just the band, laying down a groove that hypes up the crowd. And, man, do they know how to do it. Trading wild sax and trumpet solos over a resonant walking bass and swirling organ, they literally set the stage for Lady Sunshine's appearance. Having built the tension to a fever pitch, guitarist Slick Rick Humesky announces, "It's star time!" He introduces Lady Sunshine as "creator of such tunes as 'Man Trouble' [horns and cymbals blast a single beat], 'The Hairdresser' [blast!], 'Losin' Track of Time' [blast!] . . ." It's an intro almost worthy of James Brown. And what could be more appropriate for this powerful blues and R&B performer? When Lady Sunshine takes center stage, the crowd knows the party has begun, and she knows how to work it.

It's no surprise this fourteen-year-old band is a fan favorite at local outdoor festivals. These musicians are so tight, they seem to read each other's minds. Who can resist dancing along with the horn section's synchronized shuffle? And when you hear those lowest notes on the baritone sax, the funk catches fire. These veterans know the conventions of their craft and make the most of familiar rhythm-and-blues riffs.

But as good as the X Band is, there's a reason Lady Sunshine is the star—and not just that she can belt out the blues like only a scorned woman can. Yes, she puts on a show, revving up the crowd and the musicians with her full-bodied vocals. But it's her original material that takes her beyond a talented genre performer to a modern woman storyteller. She expands the traditional blues composition to reveal complex female characters fed up with philandering husbands, tempting lovers, and men who want only one thing. She is funny and irreverent, sassy and naughty, smart and heartbroken.

"My husband don't love me; he only want what's under my dress," she sings with exasperation. In another song, she's sarcastic: "There must be somethin' wrong with your watch, baby—you can't seem to keep track of time." She sympathizes with the woman who finds someone else's lipstick and perfume in her house. But in the next number, she's a woman with her own weakness: "I won't tell my husband, if you won't tell your wife. I've got a thang for you, baby. I know you've got a thang for me." Above all, she presents a strong woman undaunted by the burden of the blues.

Lady Sunshine was raised in the Deep South but has been in Ann Arbor since 1975. She and the band have blended traditional southern sounds with Detroit soul and Motown rhythms. They can slow it down for a poignant "At Last, My Love Has Come Along" and rock out for "The Blues Is All Right." In these hands, it is indeed.

Guy Hollerin's hosts Lady Sunshine in the ballroom of the Holiday Inn near the University of Michigan on Valentine's Day, Saturday, February 14.

—Stephanie Kadel-Taras

Feb. 10: "Showcase Night." With 4 different young local bands. **Feb. 11: Sweet Japonic.** Blues-inflected folk-rock quartet from Grand Rapids. Opening act is **Four Finger Five,** a Muskegon crunk-rock trio. **Feb. 12: Champions of Breakfast.** Detroit electropop glam band. Opening act is **The Howlies,** an Athens, Georgia, postpunk band. **Feb. 13: Jon McLaughlin.** Popular funk-inflected pop-rock singer-songwriter from Anderson, Indiana. Opening acts TBA. Advance tickets: $15. 9 p.m.–1 a.m. **Feb. 14: The Bang!** Dance party with this local DJ collective that plays garage and 70s rock. **Feb. 15: "Bring Your Own Jukebox."** See above. **Feb. 17: Showcase Night.** See above. **Feb. 18: Brett Dennen.** Popular young folk-rock singer-songwriter from central California whose songs on a range of social and personal themes blend the lithe, vaguely melancholy melodicism of Paul Simon and James Taylor with Dylanesque verbal pirouettes. Opening acts TBA. *Note:* Dennen showcases material from his new CD *Hope for the Hopeless* in a free performance 12:30 p.m. this afternoon at Liberty Borders. Advance tickets $15 ($17 at the door). **Feb. 19: Count Bass D.** Hip-hop MC from Nashville known for his socially conscious raps with a punk edge. **Feb. 20: Yoshi.** Ypsilanti R&B and hip-hop band led by singer/rapper Yoshi. Opening acts are **Rafael Casal,** an Oakland, California alternative hip-hop MC, and **Tree City,** a local hip-hop ensemble known for its Wu Tang–style energy and politically charged rhymes. Also, **DJ C4. Feb. 21: The Von Bondies.** Popular, critically acclaimed Detroit quartet that plays a casually aggressive blues-based brand of garage rock. "Specialising in tender melodies hidden within explosions of sound, featuring Chuck Berry guitar riffs and Stooges fury (but without the pantomime theatrics of either), the Von Bondies slowly build their audience up to a frenzy then feed off it," says *Guardian* reviewer Betty Clarke. Opening acts are **Nico Vega,** an indie soul-rock trio from L.A., and **Lightning Love** (see Halfass). Advance tickets: $5 ($10 at the door). **Feb. 23: "Blind Pig Roller Races."** See above. **Feb. 24: Tyrone Wells.** Soulful pop-rock singer-songwriter from southern California. Opening act is **Trevor Hall,** an acoustic rock singer-songwriter from L.A. Advance tickets: $12 ($14 at the door). 8 p.m.–midnight. **Feb. 25: Corey Smith.** *All ages admitted.* Country-tinged folk-rock trio led by singer-songwriter Smith. Advance tickets: $12 ($15 at the door). 8 p.m.–midnight. **Feb. 26: Starbrand.** *Tentative.* Local drum 'n' bass electronica band. Opening acts TBA. **Feb. 27: The Dirty Americans.** Detroit band whose heavy, guitar-driven rock 'n' roll has provoked comparisons to Helmet and the Rollins Band. Opening acts are **Paradime,** a popular Detroit hip-hop ensemble, and **The Disregarded,** a self-styled "dirt-hop" quartet from Oakville whose music blends American roots music with urban rap, gospel-tinged choruses. **Feb. 28:** TBA.

Cavern Club

210 S. First St. **332–9900**

This downtown club in the Celebration Cellars basement banquet space features live music on Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, the Millennium Club, a street-level club at the same address, features DJs, 10 p.m.–2 a.m. on most Fri. & Sat. **Feb. 7: Killer Flamingos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular, veteran band from Dearborn. **Feb. 21: Third Coast Kings.** Local funk band. **Feb. 28: Killer Flamingos.** See above.

The Circus

210 S. First St. **913–8890**

This bar located on the top floor of the Cavern Club building features live music Wed.–Fri., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Thurs. & Fri: "Live Rock 'n' Roll Karaoke."** Karaoke with prerecorded rhythm tracks, and live guitars and keyboards by the Hartland trio **Double Take. Feb. 4: Black Jake & the Carnies.** Ypsilanti octet that calls its energetic, foot-stomping blend of punk, old-time music, and bluegrass "crabgrass." **Feb. 11: Red Arrow Highway.** Versatile local folk-rock band led by singer-guitarist Theo Katzman and singer-bassist Andrew Kratzat. **Feb. 18: Dragon Wagon.** Local experimental acoustic roots-music band. **Feb. 25: The Bearded Ladies.** Local Americana bluegrass quartet.

Club Above

215 N. Main **663–7758**

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features live music Sat. & Sun., 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m., and live happy hour bands on Fri., 5:30–8:30 p.m. Also, DJs on Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., & Sun. and karaoke on Wed., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & over only unless otherwise noted. **Every Sun.: "Mexican Night."** With live Mexican bands TBA. Hosted by DJ Miguel. **Feb. 6** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: FUBAR.** 6-piece band led by Kingpins bassist Randy Tessier and featuring former Map of the World vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Their repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals by Hanifi and Tessier and covers of everyone from the Everly Brothers, the Kinks, and the Yardbirds to Miles Davis, Steve Earle, and U2. The band has a 4-song minidisk, *Clean House,* an election-year collection that includes 2 originals, a cover of Stephen Stills's 1967 protest classic "For What It's Worth," and an original setting of Auden's 1939 poem "Refugee Song." **Feb. 7:** TBA. **Feb. 13** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Khalid Hanifi.** Beatlesque postpunk powerpop by a quintet led by veteran local singer-songwriter Hanifi and featuring guitar wiz George Bedard. **Feb. 14: Groove Spoon.** Local funk dance band. Opening act TBA. **Feb. 20** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Mike Smith & the Cadillac Cowboys.** Veteran local country band led by singer-guitarist Smith. **Feb. 21: Lake Effect.** Self-styled "mutant pop" band from Cleveland, Ohio, that blends elements of rock, funk, and folk. Opening act TBA. **Feb. 27** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Drivin' Sideways.** Veteran local band fueled by vocalist Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still features lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everything from Chuck Berry and Johnny Burnette to the Beatles and James Brown. The band's guiding presence seems to be Elvis—including both large chunks of his repertoire and his attitude that any music he did suited him just because he did it. The band also includes guitarist George Bedard, bassist Chris Goerke, drummer Mark Newbound, and keyboardist Jim King. **Feb. 28: Inkface & the Digital Dream.** Ypsilanti electronica-dub trio. Opening act is **Burning Cacti,** an experimental psychedelic pop band from Canton.

Common Cup

1511 Washtenaw **327–6914**

This coffeehouse run by the University Lutheran Chapel features live music and other entertainment Fri., 8–9 p.m. No cover, no dancing. February schedule TBA.

Conor O'Neill's

318 S. Main **665–2968**

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. (7:30–10 p.m.), Thurs. & Sat. (9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.), & occasional other nights, and a DJ on Fri., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. Followed at 10 p.m. by karaoke. **Every Thurs.: Jerry Sprague Band.** Roots-rock band led by veteran local singer-guitarist Sprague. **Every Fri: DJ Big Daddie. Feb. 7: Joshua & Jeremy Sprague.** An eclectic mix of rock covers by Jerry Sprague's 2 sons. **Feb. 14: Count Bracey & the Pleasure Tones.** Detroit blues band. **Feb. 21: Michael May & the Messarounds.** Jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by this veteran local quartet led by vocalist and blues harpist May. **Feb. 28: Kris K Trio.** Local trio led by singer-guitarist Kris Kurzawa that plays jazz, soul, and avant-funk covers and originals.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room

114 S. Main **665–9468**

This tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8:30–10:30 p.m. **Feb. 6: Timothy Monger.** See Old Town. **Feb. 7: Mark Duval.** Indie Americana singer-songwriter from Kalamazoo whose repertoire also includes covers by everyone from Gillian Welch and Iron & Wine to various Michigan songwriters. **Feb. 13: Jared Saltiel & the Dirty Birds.** Local folk-rock band led by singer-songwriter Saltiel. **Feb. 14: Emile Lewandowski.** Intimate, playful pop-folk by this strong-voiced singer-songwriter from Lexington, Michigan, whose music features a breezy mix of sweet melodies and resonant lyrics. **Feb. 20: Markita Moore.** Soulful acoustic folk and rock by this Detroit singer-guitarist. **Feb. 21: Meeta Banerjee & John Churchville.** Classical Indian music by the local duo of sitarist Banerjee and tabla player Churchville. **Feb. 27: Seven Bridges.** Country-rock originals by this Detroit trio led by singer-songwriter Keith Howard and featuring vocalist Lisa Chambers and her husband, bassist Dave Chambers. **Feb. 28: Kevin Brown.** Solo acoustic performance by this Corndaddy country-rock singer-songwriter.

Tree City is at the Blind Pig Feb. 20.

Creekside Grill and Bar

5827 Jackson Rd. **827–2737**

The intimate basement bar area of this restaurant in Scio Township features occasional live music. Cover, dancing. **Feb. 22: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late-1930s swing and 1940s R&B. 6:30–9 p.m.

Dreamland Theater

26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti **657–2337**

This downtown Ypsilanti theater, newly relocated from Depot Town, features live music Thurs. & occasional other nights, 9–11 p.m. or later. Cover (usually a donation), no dancing. **Feb. 2: Almus Magnus.** Grand Rapids psychedelic folk band led by country-folk singer-songwriter Magnus. Opening acts are the Anchorage folk-thrash **Pretty Birds That Kill,** the Jonesboro, Arkansas experimental folk-rock band **Growth Spert,** and the Jackson experimental hardcore-folk band **The Illalogical Spoon.** 8–11 p.m. **Feb. 27: Jefferson Golfcart.** Canton grunge-metal quartet. Tonight the band celebrates the release of its new CD. Opening acts are **The Godfredsonland Paladins,** a local neopsychedelic ambient band, and **Fatal Furor & the Iron Fist Pistons.** 8–11 p.m. **Feb. 28: The Worm Farmers Almanac.** Local experimental electronic band. Opening acts are **Moon Elves,** an Ypsilanti ambient band, and **Confusion Reactor,** a band led by Ypsilanti guitarist and electronic musician Thomas Barton that plays experimental psychedelic music drawing on influences ranging from Captain Beefheart to Brian Eno and Tangerine Dream. The show begins at 8 p.m. with a performance of the Dreamland Puppet Troupe's **"Mad Lib Puppet Show"** (see 7 Saturday Events listing).

Elbow Room

6 S. Washington, Ypsilanti **483–6374**

This Ypsilanti tavern features live music and/or DJs Mon.–Thurs., 9 p.m.–1 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, occasional Sun., 8 p.m.–midnight. No cover ($5 suggested donation), dancing. **Every Thurs.: "Mofo Karaoke."** With "the standard karaoke playlist crap plus 2,500+ obscure and awesome songs." **Feb. 3: "Tiki Tuesday."** The Elbow Room Tiki Tuesday band plays surf music and various exotica. Also, performance by the belly dancer **Aurora** and magician **Scarboni. Feb. 4: Plane to Barcelona.** Blues-rock trio. Opening acts are **Royale,** an Ypsilanti rock band, and **Philo-San,** a reggae-flavored pop-rock trio from Trenton. **Feb. 6: Two Roads to Mexico.** Melodic Ypsilanti emocore band. Opening acts are **Downtown Brown,** a Detroit postpunk metal-funk trio, and **Invader,** a local hardcore band. **Feb. 7: Matt Jones.** Local pop-folk singer-songwriter who tonight celebrates the release of his new CD. Opening act is **The High Strung,** a Brooklyn, Michigan, trio that plays dark, crafty pop with psychedelic overtones. The band won praise from *Rolling Stone,* which cited its "gift for nervy, agitated melodies that get under your skin as much as they make you hum along." **Feb. 10: "Direct Hits Mod Club."** DJ collective that plays vintage British pop and soul. **Feb. 11: Matt G.** Local hip-hop MC. Opening acts are the Milan drum'n' bass hip-hop trio **Illlitirit** and local hip-hop MCs **Danny Brown, Selfsays, Plee, A.P., Leaf Erickson,** and **Y.P. Louis,** along with **DJs Sol Percussion** and **Mselect. Feb. 13: Mike Boyd.** Local country-rock singer-songwriter. Opening acts are **Chad Williams & the Lonesome Plowboys,** a twangy country-folk ensemble led by local singer-songwriter Williams, and **ColorTv,** a New York garage rock band. **Feb. 14: "3rd Annual Bloody Valentine Party."** With **Christpuncher,** a theatrical heavy metal band from Ypsilanti, and "Vamps of Valentines," a performance by the Chelsea-based **Nomadic Jewels Tribal Bellydance.** Between sets, music by DJs **Scarboni** and **Chuck Damage. Feb. 17: "The Cycle."** DJs Blakguts and Joe Vargas spin funk, soul, and indie dance records. **Feb. 18: Sh! The Octopus.** Highly regarded local indie pop-rock quintet. Opening acts are **The Visitations,** an Athens, Georgia, indie rock band led by Dave Wrathgeber of Fablefactory, and **Bitter Inks,** an Ypsilanti acoustic pop-rock trio. **Feb. 20: Wally Dogger.** Chicago indie powerpop band. Opening act is **The Ferdy Mayne,** an Ypsilanti folk-rock trio. **Feb. 21: Chris Bathgate.** Local singer-songwriter who writes heartfelt, poetic story songs in a variety of moods. Opening acts are **Black Jake & the Carnies** (see Circus) and **Drunken Barn Dance,** a local experimental alt-country and folk-rock band fronted by Scott Sellwood of Saturday Looks Good to Me. **Feb. 24: "Club Fit."** Indie rock dance party with DJs Ayron Michael Nelson and Louis P. **Feb. 25: Jefferson Golfcart.** See Dreamland. Opening acts are **The Ultrasounds,** a local futuristic retro-rock trio, and **The Wednesdees,** a Detroit garage rock band. **Feb. 27: Chapstik.** Ypsilanti punkabilly metal quintet led by singer-guitarist Leighton Mann. Opening acts are **Quatre Tete,** a Chicago progressive metal-rock trio, and **Jehovah's Witness Protection Program,** a local acoustic pop-folk band. **Feb. 28: Valentine.** Pinckney indie rock band.

The Firefly Club

637 S. Main **665–9090**

Jazz and blues club, named Best Metro Detroit Jazz Club by the *Detroit Free Press,* that recently moved to a new location next to South Main Market. Live jazz Mon., 8 p.m.–midnight; occasional Tues., 8–10 p.m.; occasional Wed., times TBA; Thurs., 8–11 p.m.; Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.–1 a.m.; and Sun., 8:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. Also, happy-hour music Thurs., 4–7 p.m., and Fri. & Sun., 5–8 p.m. Sun. jazz brunch, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. **Every Fri.** (5–8 p.m.)**: Easy Street Swingtet.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Paul Klinger. **Every Sun.** (5–8 p.m.)**: Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 1920s and early 1930s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. The rest of the lineup includes 3 saxophonists/clarinetists, 2 trumpeters, a trombonist, a guitarist/banjo player,

and a drummer. **Every Sun.: "Elevation."** Funk and hip-hop by DJ Graffiti and other DJs TBA. Also, an open mike session. **Every Mon.: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist (and Firefly Club owner) Susan Chastain. Followed at 11 p.m. by a **jazz jam session. Every Thurs.: Los Gatos.** Mambos and cha-chas by this local Latin jazz band that specializes in the music of Cal Tjader, the late San Francisco vibes player who ignited the 1950s mambo craze. Led by drummer Pete Siers, the group also includes vibes player Cary Kocher, bassist Kurt Krahnke, pianist Brian DiBlassio, and percussionist Jonathan Ovalle. Preceded at 7 p.m. by Latin dance lessons ($5 includes cover for the band). 8–11 p.m. **Feb. 6: Sandra Bomar.** Detroit jazz vocalist. She is accompanied by the **Paul Keller Trio** for a live recording session. **Feb. 7:** Ursula Walker. This veteran Detroit jazz singer is backed by a trio led by her husband, pianist **Buddy Budson. Feb. 13:** TBA. **Feb. 14: "That's Amore!"** An evening of love songs with various area vocalists. 8 p.m.–midnight. **Feb. 17: Goran Ivanovic & Andreas Kapsalis.** Chicago-based classical-jazz fusion with Latin, East European, and Middle Eastern influences by the virtuoso duo of Serbian guitarist virtuoso Ivanovic and Greek guitarist Kapsalis. 8 & 10 p.m. **Feb. 20: Sean Dobbins Trio.** Local jazz ensemble led by drummer Dobbins. **Feb. 21: Pontiac Pete & the Bonnevilles.** Reunion of this versatile early-80s honky-tonk band led by vocalist Pontiac Pete Ferguson. With axe guitarist George Bedard, pedal steel guitarist Mark O'Boyle, drummer Mark Newbound, and bassist Chris Goerke. 8 p.m.–midnight. **Feb. 27: Lonesome County.** Hard-driving traditional bluegrass by this Michigan quintet, led by singer-guitarist Chad Jeremy, that won the 2006 Renfro Valley Bluegrass Talent Contest. With mandolinist Kevin Frank, banjoist Lee Kaufmann, fiddler Marty Somberg, and bassist Paul Shapiro. **Feb. 28:** TBA.

Goodnite Gracie

301 W. Huron **752–5740**

Martini and cigar bar below Live at PJ's lounge. Live music Fri. & Sat., 9:30 p.m.–1 a.m. Also, karaoke on Tues. Cover Thurs.–Sat. only, no dancing. **Every Wed. & Thurs.: Laith Al-Saadi Band.** An eclectic mix of jazz, blues, R&B, Motown, and pop, including many originals, by a trio led by this local singer-guitarist. **Feb. 6: Laith Al-Saadi Band.** See above. **Feb. 7: Lester Blues.** Local guitar-based blues band. **Feb. 13: Laith Al-Saadi Band.** See above. **Feb. 14: Nick Strange Band.** Popular local rock, blues, & reggae dance band led by singer-guitarist Strange and featuring vocalist Jessica Oberholtzer. **Feb. 20: Laith Al-Saadi Band.** See above. **Feb. 21: Lester Blues.** See above. **Feb. 27: Nick Strange Band.** See above. **Feb. 28: Michael May & the Messarounds.** See Conor O'Neill's.

Guy Hollerin's

3600 Plymouth Rd. **769–9800**

The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features music on Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.–midnight. Cover, dancing. **Feb. 6: Chris Canas & the Blues Revolution.** Detroit blues band fronted by Canas, a young blues vocalist and virtuoso guitarist. **Feb. 7: The Jeff Williams Group.** Toledo blues and soul quintet led by guitarist Williams and featuring vocalist Isis Ardrey. **Feb. 13: Drivin' Sideways.** See Club Above. **Feb. 14: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** *See review, p. 53.* Local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style is something of a cross between Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. **Feb. 20: The Greg Nagy Band.** Blues band from Grand Blanc led by Root Doctor guitarist Nagy. **Feb. 21: Root Doctor.** Lansing quintet led by vocalist Freddie Cunningham that plays a rich, varied blues and R&B repertoire that ranges from ZZ Hill to Billie Holiday to B. B. King to Bobby Blue Bland. **Feb. 27: The Terraplanes.** Local band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack that plays a mix of houserocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock. The band has a CD, *Well Tuned*. With guitarist Dave Fero, saxophonist James Morse, keyboardist Jim Merte, bassist Al Kalaf, and drummer Mike Adams. **Feb. 28: Harmonica Shah & His Detroit Blues Band.** Chicago-style blues band led by veteran Detroit blues harpist Shah.

The Habitat Ultralounge

3050 Jackson Rd. **665–3636**

The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.–Thurs., 8:45 p.m.–12:30 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 8:45 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Also, solo pianists Tues.–Sun., 6–8:45 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: "Monday Groove."** With DJ Mechial White. 7 p.m.–midnight. **Feb. 3–5: Justine Blazer.** Acoustic duo led by this Detroit country-rock singer-songwriter. **Feb. 6 & 7: Bugs Beddow Band.** Versatile horn-driven R&B, boogie-rock, blues, and jazz ensemble led by veteran Detroit trombonist Beddow. **Feb. 10–12: John Theaker.** Windsor R&B band. **Feb. 13: 50 Amp Fuse.** 70s and 80s classic rock by this very popular Detroit band. **Feb. 14: X-Factor.** Detroit 70s & 80s rock 'n' roll cover band. **Feb. 17–19: Identical Strangers.** Classic rock by the Windsor duo of vocalist Danielle Samson and guitarist Scott Giles. **Feb. 20 & 21: Starfarm.** 1970s to contemporary rock covers by this East Lansing quintet led by vocalist Andrea Bingham and singer-guitarist Dan Malnar. **Feb. 24–26: Dave Hamilton Band.** Pop dance band led by saxophonist Hamilton. **Feb. 27 & 28: The George Brothers.** Detroit rock 'n' roll band.

The Halfass

Church St. entrance to East Quad **764–8558**

Informal student-dominated cafe, also known as the Halfway Inn. Occasional live music, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Feb. 6: Lightning Love.** Keyboard-driven minimalist pop trio. Opening acts are **Champions of Breakfast** (see Blind Pig) and **Carjack,** a Detroit robo-punk one-man band.

Live at PJ's

102 S. First St. **752–5740**

This jazz lounge features live music and DJs Thurs.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Karaoke on Mon. Cover, dancing.

Melange Subterranean Bistro

314 S. Main **222–0202**

The lounge in this downtown restaurant features live music Thurs., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, DJs on Fri. & Sat. Dancing, no cover. **Every Thurs.: Lucas Paul Band.** Local quartet led by pop-rock singer-songwriter Paul.

The Necto

516 E. Liberty **994–5436**

This popular dance club features local and national DJs 4 nights a week, Mon. & Thurs.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (Thurs.–Sat. after 10 p.m. only), dancing.

Old Town

122 W. Liberty **662–9291**

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun. & occasional other nights, 8–10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Feb. 1:** No music. **Feb. 8: Timothy Monger.** High lonesome originals by this engaging singer-songwriter-guitarist from the Great Lakes Myth Society. **Feb. 15: Nick Strange Duo.** Jazz-rock fusion by the duo of singer-guitarist Strange and vocalist Jessica Oberholtzer. **Feb. 22: Brian Lillie.** Popular local folk-rock singer-songwriter.

Oz's Music Environment

1920 Packard **662–8283**

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music Tues., Thurs., & occasional other nights, 7:30–9:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Cover, no dancing. **Feb. 3: "Songwriters Open Mike."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **Feb. 10: "Anything Goes Open Stage & Song Circle."** All musicians invited. Hosted by Laura MacKimmie. **Feb. 17: "Originals Only Open Stage."** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by Oz, aka Steve Osburn. Advance sign-up required. **Feb. 24: "AASC Blues Highway 101."** Mickey Richard and Sue Nordman host a mostly acoustic blues jam session. All musicians invited.

The Quarter Bistro

300 S. Maple **929–9200**

This west-side restaurant features live music Thurs., 6–9 p.m., and Sat., 7–10 p.m. Also, a DJ on Fri., 6–9 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sat.: Mike Moore.** Jazz guitarist. **Every Thurs.: Steven Springer.** Roots-rock, reggae, dancehall, and calypso by this former Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band singer-guitarist, winner of 4 consecutive Detroit Music Awards for Best Guitar Player. Some weeks, Springer is joined or replaced by jazz pianist **John Hobart.**

Rick's American Cafe

611 Church **996–2747**

This campus-area club features DJs Tues. & Thurs.–Sat., 10 p.m.–1:30 a.m., with a set by a live band on Fri., 10–11:30 p.m. Large dance floor. Dancing, cover. ■

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Classifieds & Personals

Personals Key

A=Asian
B=Black
C=Christian
D=Divorced
F=Female
G=Gay
H=Hispanic
H/WP=Height & Weight Proportionate
ISO=In Search Of
J=Jewish
✍=Letters
LTR=Long Term Relationship
M=Male
ND=Nondrinker
NS=Nonsmoker
☎=Phone Calls
P=Professional
S=Single
W=White

Women Seeking Men

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 10.

PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE
$3 per letter
See Instruction Box.

Fit, fashionable blond, 52, NS, seeks confident, funny guy for political yapping, film watching, forest walks. 5785✍

Men Seeking Women

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 10.

PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE
$3 per letter
See Instruction Box.

SWM, 59, gray teddy bear, seeks a honey for chess, jazz, BBQs, and more. 5775✍

DWM, 70 years young, 195 lbs., 5'11", attractive, home-centered. Enjoys music, movies, travel. ISO slender A, H, or WF for LTR. 5689✍

Friendships

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 10.

PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE
$3 per letter
See Instruction Box.

Women Seeking Women

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 10.

PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE
$3 per letter
See Instruction Box

Men Seeking Men

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 10.

PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE
$3 per letter
See Instruction Box.

General Personals

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 10.

ANN ARBOR SKI CLUB
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To Respond to a Personals Ad by Mail:

Letter responses are forwarded for $3 per letter. Put each letter in its own envelope with the box number and sufficient first-class postage on the front. Do not put your return address on the individual envelopes, but be sure to include your contact information inside the letter if you wish to receive a reply. Mail all response letters (in a larger envelope) to the Ann Arbor Observer; include a check for $3 per response made payable to:
Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

Place Your Personals Ad Today!

- **Place your personals ad through www.arborlist.com, follow the directions to place your ad in print in the Observer, receive the first 3 lines of your personals ad for FREE.**

Ads not placed through www.arborlist.com are $7 per line.

- **Email: classifieds@arborweb.com or Fax: (734) 769-3375**
- **Mail or walk-in: 201 Catherine Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

Observer Personals Ads are also posted online at:

www.arborlist.com—*totally free classifieds*, and
www.arborweb.com—*Ann Arbor online*

Please call with any questions or comments: (734) 769–3175

We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads.

Employment

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 10.

Ann Arbor Observer
1976 ♦ 2009

GUIDE RESEARCHER

Conscientious, diligent, resourceful people with excellent English skills and journalistic savvy needed for full-time temporary work at the Ann Arbor Observer as City Guide and Community Guide researchers. Must be available either May through July or June through August.

The job requires tremendous attention to detail, uncanny ablity to track down information, suitable people skills, good writing skills, and a penchant for accuracy and thoroughness. Send resume and cover letter to: Michael Betzold, Deputy Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. No email applications or phone calls, please. Deadline for applications is February 6.

Entertainment

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 10.

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Lessons & Workshops

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 10.

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February 14, 2009
Women Preparing for Pregnancy: Vibrant Women Through the Life Cycle Series. Join U-M Integrative Medicine for a daylong workshop incorporating nutrition, yoga, mind-body skills, and nature experiences. Learn about common challenges and how to develop resiliency while sharing with other women in the same stage of life. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Retreat center located near Manchester, MI. Lunch included. $100/person. Space limited. Call (734) 998–0033 to register by 2/11/09.

Suzuki Guitar Lessons: classical guitar using Suzuki Method starting at age 5. Terry Farmer, (734) 213–8184.

Services

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 10.

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The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 10.

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Home

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Real Estate

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 10.

Homes for Sale

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 10.

LEELANAU PENINSULA
Waterfront village of Empire, Heart of Sleeping Bear Dunes Nat'l Lakeshore. NEW custom homes in the New Neighborhood. Sidewalks to stores and Lake Michigan public beach. Three-bedroom, 2-bath with basement, fireplace, wood floor, metal roof: $199,900. Three-bedroom, 2.5-bath with basement, cathedral ceiling, lots of storage, oak floor: $239,900. Three-bedroom, 2-bath with plumbed basement, loft, artistic accents: $297,500. Stapleton Realty, 1–888–313–3990, www.cdstapleton.com

Miscellaneous

The **Classifieds deadline** for the March issue is February 10.

Climate Control Indoor Storage
490 S. Maple, Ann Arbor. Next to Kroger.
662–5262. www.ccindoorstorage.com.

I SPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 72? If you can, you could win a copy of Jonathan Marwil's *A History of Ann Arbor.* One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, February 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769–3375; email: backpage@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number and put I Spy in the subject line).

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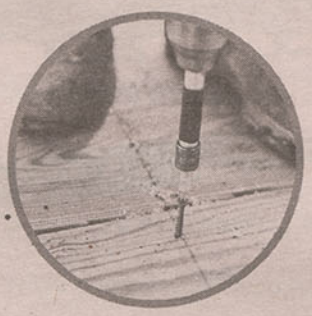

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Real Estate

Residential and Commercial Properties
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Above: Located on a bluff overlooking the Huron River, this exceptional property is on a splittable, private 10-acre parcel. Featuring 280 feet of water frontage, this contemporary home offers many unique living spaces including two studies off the foyer. The living room and family room share picturesque views of the woods and the river beyond. The first-floor master suite includes a luxurious fireplace and a private deck overlooking the river. A separate second-floor suite includes two bedrooms, a study area, and a full bath. The finished walkout lower level has a fifth bedroom, bath, large family room, and workshop. Exterior features include a four-car garage with a versatile unfinished loft area. 3978 Holden, $1,100,000. Martin Bouma, The Bouma Group; Keller Williams Realty. 761–3060.

Photo by J. Adrian Wylie

THE BOUMA GROUP

Thank You!

To all our past customers and clients for the phenomenal year we had in 2008.

For the 7th year in a row, the Bouma Group has sold more homes than anyone else in Washtenaw County. Having sold over 2,100 homes in his career, Martin and his team ended 2008 with 215 closed transactions. "In these challenging times, we remain very optimistic. In spite of a down market, the Bouma Group had it's best year ever. Our downtown Ann Arbor location, our superbly trained and knowledgeable staff, and our cutting edge marketing has contributed to the Bouma Group breaking all records." Martin's in-depth knowledge of current market conditions has been imperative in getting his listings priced correctly and sold. Nationally Martin is recognized as an expert in the Real Estate industry. Martin is also a Howard Britton Star, has been interviewed by iSucceed, Millionaire Real Estate Agent Series, Billion Dollar Agent – Lessons Learned, and is a professional business coach.

The Bouma Group is also very aware that we are in the midst of economic turmoil which has resulted in a staggering rise in foreclosures. Martin is a **Certified Distressed Property Expert** and is dedicated to helping people understand their options in these challenging times. The ramifications of foreclosure are huge and long term and they can be avoided. Martin has the expertise necessary to save people's credit, relieve uncertainty, and most of all help your family. Martin is here to help in a confidential manner and never with any obligation.

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NW ANN ARBOR – This gorgeous, custom-built home by Henry Landau rests on a 8+ acre country estate. Grounds include extensive landscaping, circle drive, and outbuilding. Home is rock solid with an all-brick exterior. Interior features include two-story living room, striking dining room with barrel ceiling, custom kitchen, dream master suite and finished walkout basement. $1,295,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

DIXBORO FARMS – Stunning 4-bedroom, 4-bath new construction on a gorgeous 2-acre estate lot in this popular NE Ann Arbor neighborhood. Quality features everywhere including all brick exterior, cherry kitchen with granite counters, extensive custom molding and trim, luxury first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. $899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – Truly spectacular 5-bedroom, 5 ½-bath custom-built home resting on an a stately 2.2 acre parcel just west of town. This home features every conceivable amenity including dream kitchen with maple cabinets and professional grade appliances, two-story family room, cherry trim and floors, luxury master suite, smart house technology, Gunite pool, 5-car garage space, and more. $899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

COLLEGE HEIGHTS – Stunning 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home built in 2006 walking distance to UM Central Campus and UM hospitals. Gorgeous home featuring custom kitchen with upgraded stainless steel appliances and granite, family room with built-ins, luxury master suite, and finished basement. $749,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LAKE FOREST - Custom built 5-bedrooms, 4 ½-bath home on a gorgeous lot backing to woods in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs. Great lot features extensive landscaping, large back yard, and extreme privacy. The interior is just perfect highlighted by the two story great room, oversized kitchen, first floor master suite, and finished basement. Great Home! $499,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STRAWBERRY LAKE – This 5-bedroom, 3½-bath home rests on one of the finest lake front settings you will find anywhere. Enjoy gorgeous bluff top views from the large deck and year-round sun room of one of the area's best all-sports lakes. Home features substantial updates including cherry kitchen with Corian counters, all new baths with granite, fresh paint, and finished walkout basement. $469,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

JACKSON – incredible 4-bedroom, 4-bath custom-built home in the Sanctuary at Brills Lake, one of Jackson's most desired subs. This 2004 Parade of Homes entry is loaded with custom features and amenities including 2-story family room with wall of windows, kitchen with cherry cabinets and granite counters, den, luxury master suite, and gorgeous wooded lot. $469,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

PINCKNEY – Gorgeous 4-bedroom, 3-bath custom-built home with 90 ft. of frontage on Highland Lake. This home is just paradise with panoramic views of lake and 11,000 acres of state owned land. The interior is loaded featuring oversized great room, maple kitchen with granite, and dream master suite. $469,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Are you looking for a GORGEOUS wooded setting just minutes to Ann Arbor and I-94? This is it!! Enjoy the complete seclusion and privacy of this 2.1 acre wooded setting. The 3-bedroom, 2-bath home features great room with vaulted ceiling, spacious oak kitchen, study loft, and private master suite. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – STONEBRIDGE - Perfect 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac lot in one of the area's most desired subs. This home is highlighted by an extensive list of upgrades and amenities. Features include great room with vaulted ceiling, open kitchen with granite island, spacious first-floor master suite, and professionally finished lower level. $374,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – YORK PLACE – This gorgeous 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath colonial rests on a peaceful one acre cul-de-sac lot in one of Saline's most desired subs. This home has all the features you've been hoping for including two-story great room, open kitchen, first-floor den, luxury master suite, 3-car garage, and finished basement. Great home. $369,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100**

LAUREL GARDENS – Highly desired 2-bedroom, 2 ½-bath condo in NE Ann Arbor's most desired condo complex. Great location and setting deep within the neighborhood backing to trees and natural area. Interior features formal living and dining, flex use den/tv room, and master suite with two walk-ins and luxury bath. $349,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MANCHESTER – This custom-built 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on almost 11 pastoral acres is close to perfect. Custom-built by Don Gaddes, this home was built with extreme attention to energy efficiency and indoor air quality. Wonderful home with large great room, maple kitchen, nice master suite, and mostly finished basement with view out windows. $275,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SILO RIDGE - Perfect 3-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial on a quiet one acre cul-de-sac lot. Wonderful setting with spacious backyard, extensive landscaping, and large deck. Interior features open family room, first-floor den, nice kitchen, and spacious master suite. $269,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – This 2-bedroom, 2-bath detached condo features one of the best golf course views you'll find. Incredible tee-to-green view of the #8 hole at Stonebridge. The interior of this unit has been completely redone. Features include maple kitchen cabinets with granite counter tops, Brazilian cherry floors, and stainless steel appliances, new master bath, and partially finished basement. $259,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Super sharp 3-bedroom, 3-bath condo in Stonebridge overlooking the #8 fairway. This unit is gorgeous featuring open living room with 10-ft. ceiling, sun porch overlooking the course, master suite with vaulted ceilings, and finished basement with view out windows. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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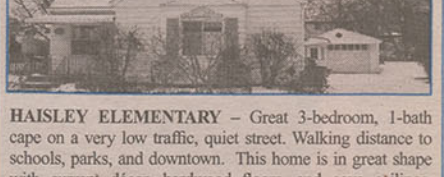
Experience and Results are what count in a difficult market. Call today for a no obligation consultation, 734-476-7100 or
email me: Matt@ISellAnnArbor.com

Matt Dejanovich

NEW LISTING – ANN ARBOR SCHOOLS - Completely remodeled 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial on a peaceful lot in Clubview subdivision. This home is just perfect featuring cherry kitchen with granite counter tops, spacious family room, oversized master suite with vaulted ceiling and attached bath, and finished basement. All hardwood floors, large backyard, and screened porch. $239,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP – Your own country oasis awaits you at this move-in condition 3-bedroom, 2½-bath home. Enjoy the gorgeous park-like setting just minutes from everything. This home is perfect and features living room with vaulted ceiling, family room with fireplace, and nice master suite. Gorgeous!! $229,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WILDWOOD COMMONS - This perfect, move-in condition 2-bedroom, 2-bath detached condo rests well within the community. You will love the spacious, open floor plan and very tasteful décor. Great room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, open kitchen with bar seating, large master suite, and guest room/den. $199,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



HAISLEY ELEMENTARY – Great 3-bedroom, 1-bath cape on a very low traffic, quiet street. Walking distance to schools, parks, and downtown. This home is in great shape with current décor, hardwood floors, and cove ceilings. Spacious master suite with ample closets, kitchen with ceramic tile floor, and large back yard. $189,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

Matt Dejanovich has been a resident and realtor in Ann Arbor and its surrounding communities for over 20 years. In that time he has become one of the top producing agents at Real Estate One, the largest real estate brokerage in the state. Matt prides himself on providing personal, direct service to each and every one of his customers.

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GLENNBOROUGH – This stately, custom-built 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home rests on one of the finest lots in the neighborhood. Home has incredible presence set far back from the street with extensive landscaping, flowing stream, and pond frontage. Interior features wonderful contemporary flair with two-story great room, cherry kitchen with granite counters, first-floor master suite with sitting room, and finished walk-out basement. $749,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – This gracious 5-bedroom, 4-bath custom-built colonial rests on a peaceful 2.2 acre setting just minutes from town. Incredible features include two-story foyer and family room, custom kitchen with granite counter tops, oversized master suite with dream closet, and finished basement. You will love it! $699,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Incredible custom-built home on a gorgeous 10-acre estate parcel just minutes from town. The land is absolutely beautiful with ample trees, river frontage, and upgraded out building. Interior features include two-story great room, custom kitchen with granite counters and professional grade appliances, all hardwood floors, and luxury master suite. $569,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BARTON HILLS AREA – New construction just minutes from downtown Ann Arbor and U of M. This 5-bedroom, 3½-bath home on a peaceful 1.5 acre parcel features wonderful oversized rooms, ample hardwood floors, custom kitchen with professional grade appliances, luxury master suite. $519,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Custom-built 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of the area's most desired subs. Incredible lot borders trees and a stream with oversized patio and extensive landscaping. Gorgeous interior features large great room with vaulted ceiling, gourmet kitchen, spacious first-floor master suite, and finished basement. $449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP – This 4-bedroom, 3-bath custom-built home rests in your own private wooded oasis. Incredible home inside and out including 8-car garage space in two outbuildings, one with finished office space. The interior of this home has been completely renovated with all first class amenities. Maple kitchen with granite counter tops, new baths, cherry floors, great room with vaulted ceiling, and luxury master suite. $449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LOHR LAKE VILLAGE – Incredible 4-bedroom, 2-full and 2-half bath home overlooking the ponds and open space in one of Saline School's most desired subs. The lot is gorgeous with extensive landscaping, large deck, and patio. Completely updated interior featuring extensive hardwood floor, granite on all counters, large kitchen, open family room, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $429,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BRASS CREEK – This custom-built home rests on one of the most beautiful sites you will find. Gorgeous acre lot with extensive landscaping, treed backyard, deck, and patio. Interior is sharp with two-story great room, den, open kitchen with granite island, first-floor master suite, and finished walk-out basement. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – This custom-built 3-bedroom, 3-bath home rests on one of the most beautiful settings you will find anywhere. Incredible backyard view with fully developed pond including large deck, extensive patios, and gorgeous landscaping. The interior is sharp including great room with vaulted ceiling and two-story fireplace, spacious kitchen with Corian counters, first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. $329,900 **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CENTENNIAL FARMS – This 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial is just perfect. Hard to find home in one of Saline School's most desired subs. Great lot located deep in the neighborhood is walking distance to Harvest Elementary and Saline High School. Gorgeous interior features maple kitchen with oak hardwood floor, open family room, first-floor den, luxurious master suite, and large bedrooms. $329,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – DEXTER – Perfect 5-bedroom, 2 ½-bath two-story home on a peaceful acre lot in Stoneyfield Acres. Great setting with extensive landscaping, privacy, and paver patio. The interior of this home sparkles featuring 9' first-floor ceilings, spacious kitchen, great room with fireplace, formal dining room, large master suite, and bonus room. You will love it. $289,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WILDWOOD – This perfectly maintained and upgraded 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial in one of Saline's most desired subs has all the features you've been hoping for. Gorgeous lot backing to woods includes extensive landscaping, large deck, and patio. The interior is perfect featuring open kitchen with granite, large family room, nice master suite, and finished walkout basement. $284,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GRASS LAKE – This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath former builder's model home in Sandhill Estates is loaded with quality upgrades. Great design featuring two-story foyer, open great room, large kitchen with island, first-floor master suite with sitting area, and three-car garage. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – This is not your typical Ann Arbor ranch. Backing to Pioneer woods, this home has been completely remodeled and expanded. Perfect for a single person or a couple, this home features a huge master suite overlooking the woods with upgraded bath, the backyard is all deck with sitting areas and complete privacy, finished basement, and more. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – Hard to find 2-bedroom, 2-bath handyman special on a wooded 1.5 acre lot on Huron River Dr. Great opportunity for fix up, major addition, or tear down of this ranch style home on Ann Arbor's west side. Great location just minutes to downtown and U of M. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BURNS PARK – Super charming 3-bedroom, 1-bath two-story home in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. Great price for this move-in condition home on a quiet tree lined street. Interior features extensive hardwood floors, custom décor, large living room with fireplace, and formal dining. Spacious backyard. $239,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

FORD LAKE FRONTAGE - Enjoy panoramic bluff top views of Ford Lake from this remodeled and expanded 3-bedroom colonial. Lake front living at its finest with multiple decks and patios and a gorgeous all-sports lake. Home features added family room with vaulted ceiling and hardwood floor, central kitchen, spacious master bedroom, and finished basement. $229,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

OLD WEST SIDE – Walk to downtown Ann Arbor from this classic Old West Side 3-bedroom, 1-bath two-story home. Washtenaw Diary and Jefferson Market are just blocks away as well. Great home at a great price featuring extensive hardwood floors, large living room, spacious formal dining room, updated kitchen, and good sized bedrooms. $229,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MAPLEWOOD FS – This super sharp 3-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial has been completely updated over the past three years. Perfect move-in condition home features large living room, spacious kitchen, great lot with deck, nice master suite, and finished basement. You will love it. $209,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GRASS LAKE – Wonderful 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on pastoral 6.8 acre parcel just minutes to I-94. Perfect setting with great privacy, large deck, and pole barn. Interior features great room with vaulted ceiling, open kitchen, formal dining room, large master suite with walk-in closet, and large basement. $209,999. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – Great 3-bedroom, 1-bath ranch home walking distance to UM hospital, lower town, and downtown Ann Arbor. This home is in perfect move-in condition and features large backyard, one car garage, and neutral décor throughout. $169,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – SALINE- Rare find. Country ranch on a peaceful acre lot on the north side of Saline, just minutes to I-94. Solid brick ranch in need of some cosmetic updates. Great starter home includes large backyard, 2 car garage, living room, den, and full basement. $169,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

EBERWHITE –Rock solid 3-bedroom, 1-bath brick ranch on one of the most desired streets in town. Nicely remodeled home with newer maple kitchen, windows, and roof. Home features large living room, open floor plan, and full basement. $159,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – SALINE – Great 2-bedroom, 1 ½-bath condo in perfect move-in condition. This unit has a great set of features and amenities. The highlights include cherry kitchen, spacious living room, spacious master suite with walk-in closet, and full basement. $139,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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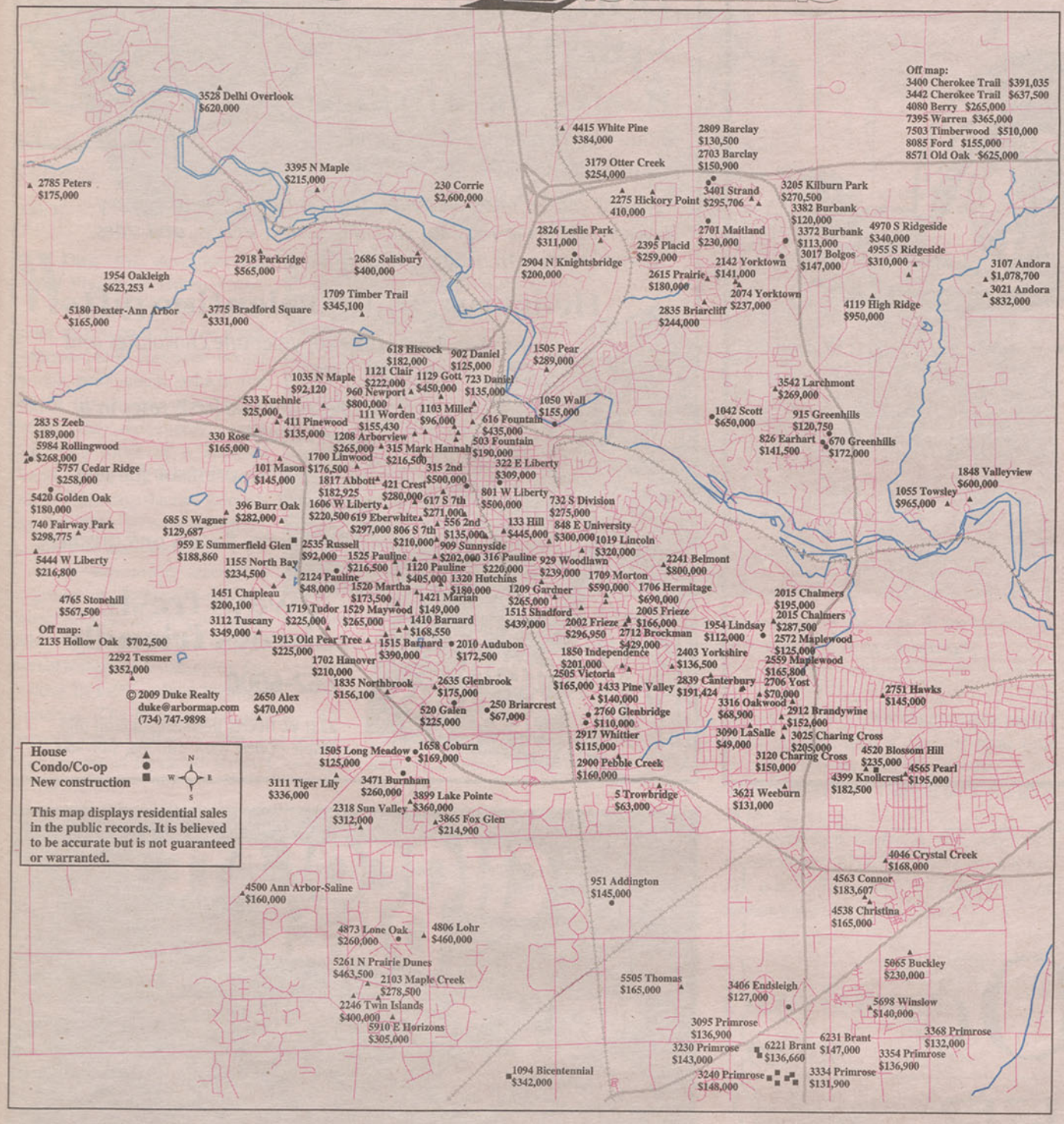
NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2008

HOME SALES



Existing Single-Family Home Sales			
Price Range	2006	2007	2008
Less than $100K	3	14	40
$100K-$199,999	206	286	332
$200K-$299,999	457	458	379
$300K-$399,999	272	252	155
$400K-$499,999	130	94	72
$500K-$599,999	67	69	31
$600K-$699,999	50	36	23
$700K-$799,999	30	17	20
$800K-$899,999	19	15	15
$900K-$999,999	7	4	5
Over $1,000,000	13	7	6
Homes Sold (#)	1,254	1,252	1,078
Median Price	$288K	$260K	$235K
Sales	$429M	$386M	$306M

Sales of existing single-family homes fell 14 percent in 2008. In the Ann Arbor school district, we counted just 1,078 transactions, including foreclosures, compared to 1,252 sales in 2007. The chart at left displays how the impact of the downshifting economy realigned sales across the economic spectrum. For historical perspective, the chart breaks down sales by price range for every year since 2006, when prices were peaking.

Affordable homes costing less than $100,000 seemed headed for extinction three years ago—we cited only three examples in 2006. They made a big comeback last year, with forty sales in that range. On the flip side, high-end sales dwindled: the total number of homes selling for $500,000 or more fell from 186 in 2006 to just 100 in 2008.

The Home Sales Map of November was mistakenly replaced with a reprint of October's in our last issue. This month's map combines sales from November and December. We noted in last month's column that through November, the median price of a single-family home dropped 10 percent, on top of the 10 percent drop of the year before. Adding December's sales only confirmed that pattern. More important, the median price for the last six months of 2008 was unchanged from the first six months, which would seem to support the comforting observation that the market was finally stabilizing—at least in the Ann Arbor school district.

Others find comfort comparing losses in the local real estate market with losses elsewhere, such as the stock market. Since the beginning of 2006, the Dow Jones Industrial Average has lost 18 percent of its value, according to the Morningstar website, while the S&P 500 has dropped 29 percent during those same three years. Closer to home, Ford shares dropped 70 percent and GM fell 83 percent, according to the Bloomberg website's figures. In that context, it is humbling to note that nobody could match Uncle Sam—over that period, money invested in a three-year Treasury note earned 14 percent.

—Kevin Duke

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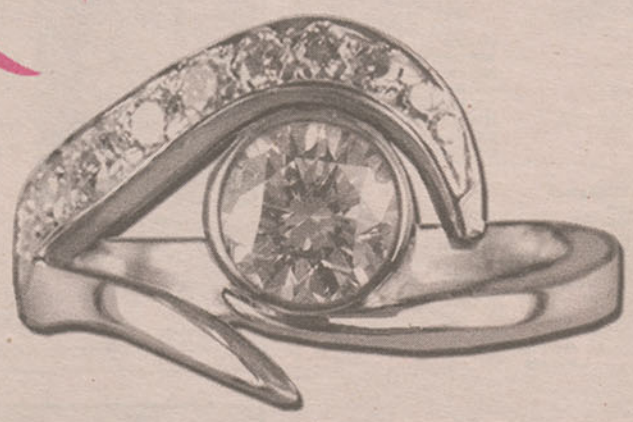

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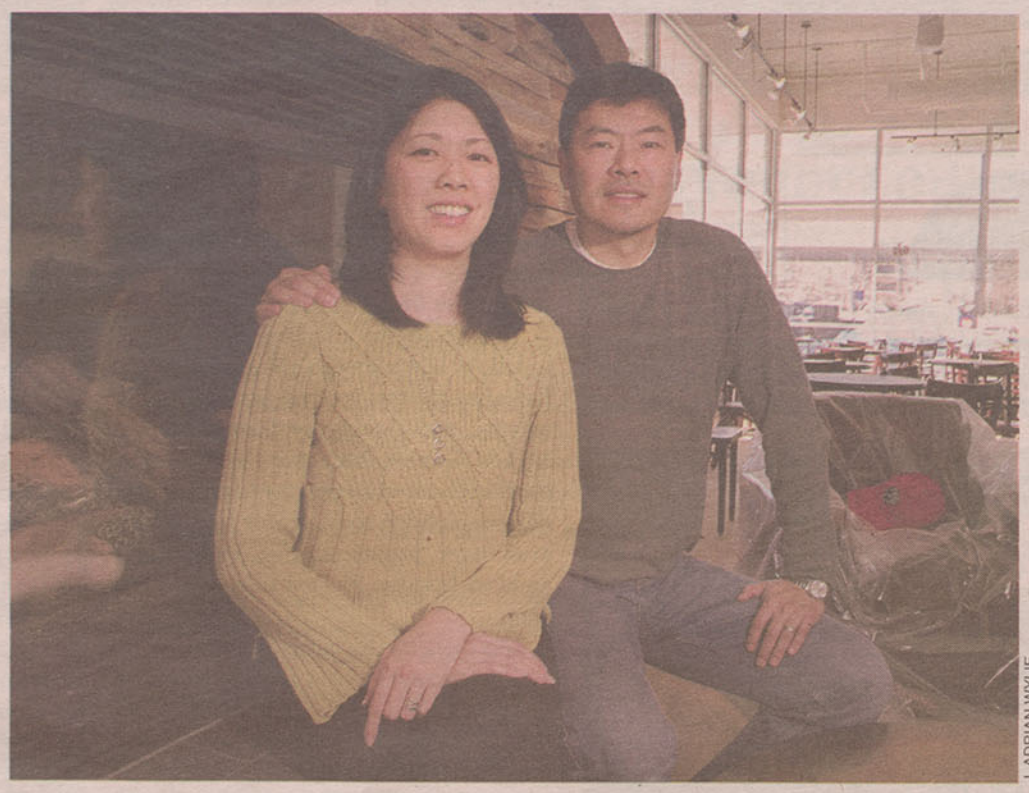
Marketplace Changes

by Tony McReynolds & Sally Mitani

Take that, Starbucks

How Sweetwaters won a north-side spot



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Lisa and Wei Bee will manage Ann Arbor's third Sweetwaters for their franchisees—who also happen to be their landlords at the new Plymouth Green Crossings.

When the developers of Plymouth Green Crossings decided their office-retail mix should include a coffeehouse, they surveyed people in the area about which one they'd like to see move in. "I think [the developers] were expecting more of a national brand," says Lisa Bee, but Starbucks didn't top the list. According to Bee, "Overwhelmingly, people said Sweetwaters."

So the developers assembled a group of investors and approached Lisa and her husband, Wei—they opened the original **Sweetwaters** at Washington and Ashley in 1993—about buying a franchise. The Bees agreed, and the new **Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea** was scheduled to open in Plymouth Green Crossings in late January.

It's the second franchise for the coffeehouse: townie Chris Hutton opened the first in Kerrytown in 2005. Unlike Hutton, who runs the Kerrytown store himself, the Plymouth Green Crossings franchisees have no restaurant experience, so they asked the Bees to run the store for them. Lisa says she and Wei will divide their time equally between the downtown and north-side locations.

The cafe will have the same menu of specialty coffees and teas and the same vaguely Asian decor as the original, with lots of blond wood and a tranquil sense of spare, open space. "Sweetwaters is not a hundred percent Asian concept, but definitely we have a lot of Asian influence because we are Chinese," Lisa says. The official grand opening celebration on January 31 is planned to be full-on Asian: it's also a Chinese New Year's celebration with lion dancers, Chinese dancers, Chinese yo-yos, and more.

Lisa says that although she and Wei have other franchises in the works, the process is slow: "We always have people inquiring, and then it takes us some time to work through it to see whether or not we're a good fit for them or they're a good fit for us."

Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 3393 Plymouth Road, 327–6330. Mon.–Fri. 6 a.m.–11 p.m., Sat.–Sun. 7 a.m.–11 p.m. sweetwaterscafe.com.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

A guy not named Moe: Eric Fitch, general manager at Mohammed "Mo" and Mohanned "Mo" Kasham's new Cottage Inn Buffet on Washtenaw.

Pizza trumps Coneys

The Kashams shuffle the deck

There aren't five guys named Moe in this story. But there are two guys named Mo, one restaurant named Moe, two properties named Pittsfield, and a lot of juggling of names and concepts.

Mo (short for Mohammed) Kasham opened **Big Moe's Coney Island Restaurant** on Washtenaw a few years ago. His younger brother Mo (short for Mohanned) managed the Cottage Inn take-out and delivery store at the other end of the same strip mall, Pittsfield Crossing. It's not as big a coincidence as it seems, since Pittsfield Crossing is owned by the Kasham family.

Then last spring, Mo the Elder opened **Greeko's Coney-Grill** in Pittsfield Plaza, another Kasham family property at Washtenaw and Pittsfield.

Both Greeko's and Big Moe's closed a few months ago. As Mo the Younger explains it, "We first opened up Moe's two years ago and it was beautiful. Then six

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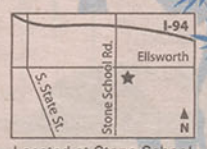

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other Coney Islands opened within a half mile." He ticks them off: "King of Queens, IHOP, Leo's, Luca's, Greeko's, Golden Egg. We just got saturated."

He explained this from his new workplace, the **Cottage Inn Buffet,** in the space that was formerly Big Moe's. "Cottage Inn corporate wanted to take this space over and make it a buffet, so it wasn't really a total loss," he says. "As you can see, we're still using the same dining room. With the economy the way it is, and everyone pinching pennies, it works out nicely. For $6.99, it's all you can eat: salad, pizza, and drinks." (You can still order pizza and sandwiches for takeout and delivery too.)

In case anyone's finding this too easy to follow: while Greeko's was going down the tubes, the two brothers put their heads together and quickly overhauled it as a Middle Eastern restaurant named Tabbouli's. But it was open for less than two months, and for most of that time didn't even have proper signage—only some crooked lettering painted directly on the glass.

Mo the Elder is currently looking for a new restaurant tenant for that space. "I don't want to just lease it to anyone," he says. "I want to make sure whoever leases it has the proper background, the right resources."

Cottage Inn Buffet, 4860 Washtenaw, 528–1515. Sun.–Thurs. 11 a.m.–midnight, Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.–1 a.m. cottageinn.com.

Briefly Noted

Quickie Burger & Dogs, which opened last year at State and Hill with a sexually suggestive logo that delighted the frat boys and infuriated the campus feminist contingent, now has a Class C liquor license. It's the only Class C within several blocks, and according to Maria Arman, mother of Quickie Burger owner Varujan Arman, plenty of customers lined up outside on January 3 when they unveiled their twelve-beer tap, their machine that dispenses Jägermeister for Jägerbombs (a shot dropped into a Red Bull), and their blended frozen margaritas, daiquiris, and piña coladas. From street level Quickie Burger looks like a tiny place with only a small counter; there's a basement room with tables.

Quickie Burger & Dogs, 800 South State, 222–4555. Daily 11 a.m.–4 a.m.

Closings

With shelves picked clean, **Bello Vino Marketplace** closed its doors on January 8, a week ahead of the schedule it had announced shortly before Christmas.

"It actually wasn't Pfizer," says Jennifer Ferris, disputing the conventional wisdom that the closing of the nearby research lab killed the fancy food and wine store. Ferris, company vice-president (and daughter of owner Louis Ferris), acknowledges that "Pfizer had an effect on us—more than we originally anticipated—but then there was a gap."

Going through the store's sales records, she says, she can spot subsequent declines as competition increased—"We saw Plum opening up; we saw [the new] Whole Foods"—and high gasoline prices kept shoppers home. But she insists that even all that wasn't enough to close Bello Vino.

"When the economy downturned more dramatically in November, when all the retails were really hit, we were poised to weather it," she says. "We had a really good staff. We were totally ready to go through it. But we had spent five years in a very difficult building." With something always leaking or giving out, she says, they finally asked themselves, "How much money can we put into something? If we put in a new floor, it becomes the landlord's floor."

Ferris, at twenty-six, is also vice-president of Bello Vino's parent company, Federated Capital Corporation, which owns a railroad (the route of the hoped-for Ann Arbor–Howell commuter line), railroad cars, a working farm in Superior Township, and two companies that provide information technology to businesses. In the evenings she works on her M.B.A. at the U-M and then commutes back to her home in Royal Oak.

She's also still vice-president of Bello Vino. "Ideally," she says, "we would like to come back with another market someday. We're still looking at spaces for a beer and wine store."

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If you're a disc golf fan and you've dreamed of opening your own disc golf store, Matt Cyrulnik can get you off to a good start. He figures that when he closes **Fly**—his combination disc golf and urban clothing store on State Street—at the end of January, he'll have close to $50,000 worth of leftover inventory to unload.

Cyrulnik says he and his wife, Jenna, are not closing because business is down. In fact, he says, "I was ready to take it to the next level of really putting in some money and redoing the whole space."

But then, he says, a group of New York venture capitalists bought the building. Offered only a month-to-month lease for six months, he says, "I had no choice but to move."

There's a possibility the Cyrulniks might reopen Fly at Kerrytown at some point—they also own the Elephant Ears children's clothing store there. But if that happens, Cyrulnik says, it'll be down the line, and he'll probably ditch the disc-golf angle and just keep the clothes. "Right now I think our focus is going to be on Elephant Ears, and expanding that," he says.

That will leave Ann Arbor without a dedicated disc golf store—and all Cyrulnik's unsold inventory just waiting for a motivated buyer.

❧❧❧

Got a retail or restaurant change? Send email to sallymitani@gmail.com or tonymcreynolds@tds.net, or leave voicemail at 769–3175, extension 320.

The Zingerman's Times

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February Roaster's Pick:
new crop indian coorg from the elk hill estate

Insiders at Zingerman's Coffee Company tell the *Times* that this new crop has a bright flavor with notes of clove & nutmeg giving way to sweeter cocoa & molasses flavors and a cinnamon spiciness that lingers on the tongue. Available at the Deli, Roadhouse and www.zingermans.com.

new zingtrain seminar debuts march 2-3, 2009

"Working with Zing!: HR Systems that Support Zingerman's Culture" features full-flavored fun and information designed for folks who want to build better relationships with their employees. Go to www.zingtrain.com for details and more information about Zingerman's business-to-business training company.

cake lovers say "oui oui" to marjolaine

20% off slices and whole cakes at the Bakehouse and Deli Next Door throughout February!

A traditional French torte with coffee house flavors: layers of toasted hazelnut cake with chocolate and espresso butter creams. Each slice is striking to look at and satisfying to eat.

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Zingerman's Delicatessen — 422 Detroit St. 734.663.DELI
Zingerman's Catering and Events — 422 Detroit St. 734.663.3400
Zingerman's Bakehouse — 3711 Plaza Dr. 734.761.2095
Zingerman's mail order — 422 Detroit St. 888.636.8162
ZingTRAIN — PO Box 1837 734.930.1919
Zingerman's Creamery — 3723 Plaza Dr. 734.929.0500
Zingerman's Coffee Company — 422 Detroit St. 734.929.6060

www.Zingermans.com

chocolate madness reported coast to coast

Limited quantites of traditional Italian gelato, handmade in Ann Arbor, now available through Mail Order!

According to relationship specialists across the country, folks are falling crazy in love thanks to Zingerman's Creamery's chocolate gelato shipping coast to coast for Valentine's Day. Friends, family members and secret admirers are calling 800.636.8162 to send this full-flavored treat to loved ones all over the U.S. Each shipment contains six 12 ounce containers, one of each of these exclusive flavors:

Dark Chocolate—Scharffen Berger chocolate makes this an intense chocolate experience.

Chocolate Heat—inspired by the great chocolate of Mexico, we take our dark chocolate and blend cinnamon, ancho chile and just enough cayenne to make it dangerous.

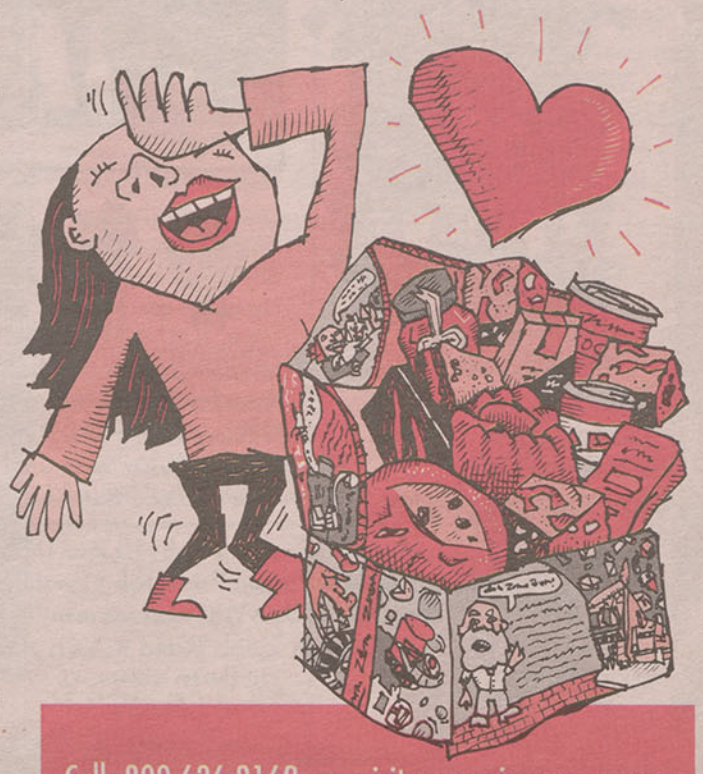
Chocolate Balsamic Strawberry—made with chocolate and fresh strawberries soaked in subtly sweet balsamic vinegar

Rocky Ride—loaded with chocolate, chocolate AND vanilla marshmallows from Zingerman's Bakehouse, and Virginia peanuts.

Turtle—made with chocolate, dulce de leche from Argentina and Georgia pecans

Cherry-Chocolate Chip Sorbet — made with about two pounds of Michigan cherries per tray and then we fold in our hand-made chocolate chips.

Times readers can also participate in chocolate gelato madness all month long at Zingerman's Creamery, the Deli Next Door cafe and at the Roadhouse! Remember that February is the shortest month, so time to enjoy these special flavors is especially limited!



Call 800.636.8162 or visit www.zingermans.com to ship chocolate gelato, baked goods, candies and more that'll make 'em swoon!

friday designated "rye day"

Zingerman's Bakehouse co-founder initiates weekly celebrations of better bread and bigger loaves throughout February

Investigators confirm new 2-kilo sizes of Jewish Rye, Caraway Rye, Onion Rye and Pumpernickel breads —that's over 4 pounds of bread!—are available at Zingerman's Bakehouse and Deli on Fridays all month long. *Times* readers can purchase these super-sized loaves by the quarter, half or whole.

When asked what's the big deal about big loaves, Zingerman's Bakehouse's co-founder Frank Carollo says that with rustic, hard-crusted, old style breads, much bigger loaves taste better!

Zingerman's co-founder Ari Weinzweig elaborates, "The relationship of the crust is better; the bakers can get the crusts darker which is very good. The caramelization of the natural sugars in the bread makes for a much tastier loaf. They have a nicer, moister, more substantial texture. They last a lot longer, they look really good, and, I think, they just feel better."

Times readers are urged to taste the difference themselves, but hurry! These big loaves are available Fridays in February at Zingerman's Bakehouse and Delicatessen.

February Bread of the Month:
rustic italian round
$4.50/ea. (reg. $6.25)
A versatile bread with a beautiful white crumb and golden crust. Just right for everyday eating!

Zingerman's Bakehouse

cure for chocolate fever discovered!

***Times* health reporters reveal the only remedy is MORE CHOCOLATE! and recommend a dose of the following:**

• Zzang! Original Candy Bar — A generous scoop of Spanish peanuts, fluffy peanut butter, honey nougat and rich caramel dipped in dark chocolate. Neal's Yard Dairy cheesemaker Joe Schneider said that the Zzang! was "the best candy bar I've ever had in my life." Handmade exclusively at Zingerman's Bakehouse and available at the Deli, Roadhouse, Bakehouse and www.zingermans.com.

• Chocolate Cherry Bread—Made with the best Belgian and French chocolates and dozens of Michigan dried cherries. Spread it with just a hint of sweet butter, or set a scoop of vanilla gelato on top of a warm slice. It also makes unbelievable French toast. Available EVERY DAY in February at the Bakehouse, Deli and www.zingermans.com.

• Askinosie Chalk-Late Box—A wooden box filled with one each of Shawn Askinosie's exceptional chocolate bars. The box has a sliding lid and the surface on the outer part of the lid is black chalkboard! It even comes with a piece of chalk for writing a message, like "Now you know how much I like you." Available at the Deli and at www.zingermans.com.

chocolate tasting with shawn askinosie

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Visit www.zingermansdeli.com for info about other events at the Deli!

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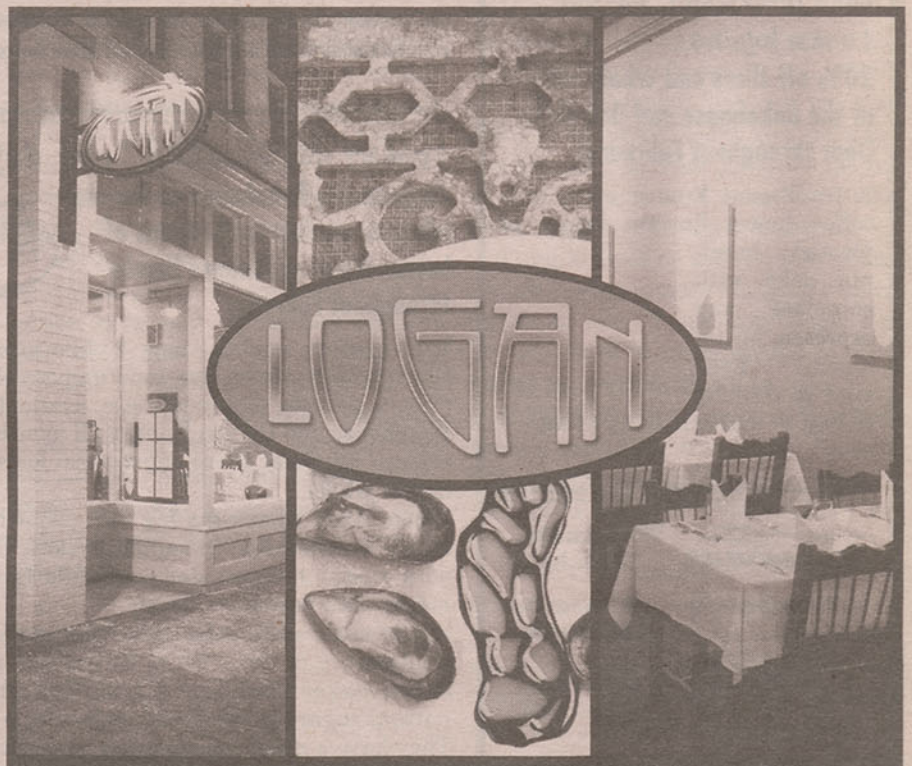

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The Melting Pot

Good show

The new Melting Pot on Main Street may be the quintessential winter restaurant, a gemütlich gathering place that taps into the primal urge to draw together around a fire when snow falls. There will be no loners here hunkering down in the corner with a newspaper or novel; this is definitely more-the-merrier territory.

The long, narrow space resembles a cave, its grottoesque feeling bolstered by granite on the tables, slate on the floor, and deep booths off to the sides. The rear is illuminated by lighted wine racks behind a glass wall, and by small hanging lamps whose colored-glass globes streak the walls eerily, like the northern lights. Built-in electric induction cookers (which heat the pot rather than the cooktop) add a campfire element.

The plastic-sheet menu includes a decent wine line. It's clear the people who run the Melting Pot chain have taken care with their wine selection—in addition to well-chosen bottles, they offer many quaffable wines by the glass. They've taken care, too, with educating their servers, who, to judge by our visits, know the menu from cover to cover.

As in a Japanese steakhouse, there's showmanship here—but at the Melting Pot, the guests are part of the theater. The server brings the fondue ingredients, mixing them in a stainless steel pot. The traditional cheese fondue starts with a splash of white wine and a dose of raw chopped garlic, followed by grated Gruyère and Emmentaler, which is carefully stirred as it melts (*fondue* is French for "melted"). The mix is finished with a squeeze of lemon juice for tanginess, grated nutmeg, and, finally, a hint of *Kirschwasser* swirled around the edge of the bowl. Then the diners take over, grabbing one of the small spears, stabbing a piece of bread, dunking it in the melted cheese, swirling, twisting, removing, and devouring. It is their duty to keep stirring the cheese—ideally, with each dip—because it needs that regular motion to stay supple. The setup encourages tiny spear fights and minibattles for the best position in the pot.

JOHN COPLEY

So much for the entertainment. For taste, the cheeses are good though not fabulous. They are produced by Wisconsin-based Roth Käse, a serious, traditional cheesemaker that has won awards for some of its varieties. But the Gruyère, for example, is relatively young, aged six to twelve months; its youth confers more moisture and better meltability but not as much flavor. Nor did the server manage to blend it into the smooth creamy swirl of a great fondue in which every element is seamlessly incorporated. Still, I could have happily overlooked the *fromage* factor if the Melting Pot had had better bread to dip in it. Crusty bread is essential for good fondue, but this was simply cubes of softy sort-of baguettes from a commercial bakery in Chicago. (I was tempted to smuggle in one of the first-rate loaves from Cafe Japon around the corner on Liberty.) Also provided for dipping are cubed apples and inch lengths of celery. The veggies and even the bread were better than the round supermarket-style corn chips served with the artichoke-spinach Butterkäse-Fontina fondue I had on my next visit. It felt like the office Christmas party, circa 1985.

We followed the fondue with salads. Of the two I tried, a Caesar and a California, both had good crisp greens, interesting garnishes, and awful dressings—the Caesar's a watery-fishy mix, and the California's a sugary raspberry vinaigrette.

The Melting Pot encourages multicoursing with combinations of cheese-fondue starters and meat-fondue mains. If I had it to do over again, I'd stick with one or the other—it's a more uniform taste experience, and for me, the multicourse meals seemed like too much food for too much money. But aiming for the full-on Melting Pot experience on

table talk

When transplanted to a new land, even the most adventurous diners will miss the tastes of home—and yearn to rekindle family memories connected to food. Maite Zubía, thirty-one, came to Ann Arbor four years ago from Chile when her husband, Matias Bargsted, began a doctoral program in political science at the U-M. She dove into community life, teaching Spanish to students of all ages and acting in the Wild Swan Theater ensemble. Then, two years ago, their son, Pedro, was born—and she found she wanted to share her cherished family food traditions with him. The handmade sweets she made so impressed her friends that last year Zubía launched a company, **Maitelates Chocolates,** to turn out the exquisite and delicious artisanal treats known as *alfajores*.

Food has always been a big part of Zubía's life, she explains via email. "All the big important family celebrations have been around lots and lots of good food," she writes. One of her favorite memories is of visiting her grandmother's home in the Chilean countryside and making *dulce de leche*. The family would gather outside around a big copper pot over a wood fire. They filled the pot with fresh milk from their creamery, added sugar, and stirred. "In order to get a smooth and nice syrup, you have to be stirring all the time," she says, so a long-handled wooden spoon would be passed from one to another of the dozen or so grandchildren standing around the pot for each to take a turn at the task, as the milk concentrated and turned a golden brown. At the end, the kids got the big prize—scraping the sides of the bowl for the best part of the dulce de leche.

Now Zubía is making her own dulce de leche in Ann Arbor, as a chief component of her *alfajor* cookies (the name comes from Arabic and means "stuffed" or "filled"). She uses it as a filling between two very light, thin shortbread cookies and coats the sweet sandwich in semisweet Belgian chocolate. Working in Pastry Cart owner Barbara Steer's professional kitchen, she turns out alfajores in five variations, each with its own taste and texture: straight dulce de leche, coffee, roasted almond, coconut, and white-chocolate-dipped. They're $2 apiece at the Farmers' Market, online at maitelates.com, and—starting in February—at Everyday Wines in Kerrytown.

—*B.E.*

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our exploratory visits, we tried various combinations.

On our first trip, after our party of just two started with cheese, the "surf and turf" was more food than we could manage. On our second visit, with three of us, we chose another combination for two—the "Pacific Rim." Again, it was more volume than we could polish off. On both occasions, our servers steered us to the "Mojo" broth for the meat course: vegetable stock with orange juice, lime juice, and cilantro. On the first night it was too acidic and worked better for the lobster tail than for the beef (boiled filet mignon—what a waste!). On the second try we liked it, particularly for cooking the duck breast and the minced-chicken-stuffed pot stickers. The dipping sauces—a soy-based teriyaki-style; curry-cream; and a ginger-plum—are generically pleasant but not quite forceful enough. I should note that, while it didn't bother me, it may be disconcerting to some to have a plate of raw pork and poultry delivered to the table. Servers lay down a few commonsense rules when they bring the meat.

Such concerns dissolve at dessert, when chocolate is melting in the pot, waiting to supply an outer shellacking to cubed brownies, pound cake, cheesecake, marshmallows, and sliced fruit. Our choice among the nine possible chocolate dishes, the "flaming turtle," was a mix of milk chocolate, caramel, and pecans, flambéed with Bacardi 151 rum before coming to rest on the burner. It was very good, but then it's hard to go wrong with warm chocolate on fresh strawberries. My only disappointment was that the place had run out of decaf that night.

On both visits, some things arrived very promptly, and others took too long to get to us. I'd cut the staff some slack on this one—beyond the restaurant's having been open just a few weeks, timing is tricky with a meal designed to be drawn out and unhurried. Aside from pacing issues, the service was delightful, and it graciously complemented the natural conviviality of fondue dining. It's a good show in an enjoyably social setting.

—Bix Engels

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Send quips, tips, and comments on local restaurants to the Bix Tip Line at bixtips@comcast.net.

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i spy

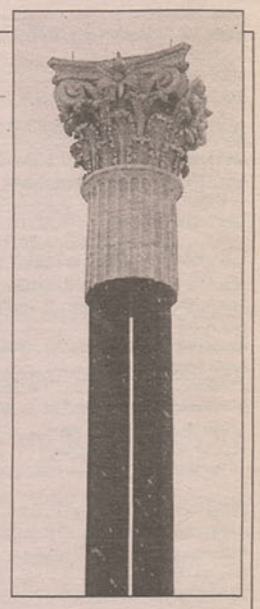
by Sally Bjork

Height restored.

To enter this month's I Spy contest, use the clue above and photo at right to find the spot shown, and send your entry to the address at the bottom of the page.

"I see the SKYLINE," wrote major (retd.) R. Rudra Narasimham in response to January's I Spy—"Ann Arbor's new high school, Skyline." The $93 million, state-of-the-art school—its motto is "Agile minds, big hearts, and deep questions"—opened this past fall after ten years of debate, planning, and construction.

"You've hit a real hot button with me!" wrote Tom Jameson, who referred to the project as "Ann Arbor's Taj Mahal—aka [former superintendent George] Fornero's Folly." Mary Shindell, who like Jameson passes by the school daily, found the feature "way too easy!" With the school in her backyard, Kim Perlman joyfully tagged Skyline "an easy spy." "It's a beautiful building," wrote Kathleen Allen. "My twin daughters (seniors at Huron High School) worked there all summer helping to get it ready for the fall opening."



We received twenty-six entries correctly identifying Skyline High; the winner of our random drawing is Rudra Narasimham. "I entered the contest with a gut feeling that I may win," he wrote on hearing the news. "I do not play lottery . . . however I like the idea of spying." Major Narasimham will receive a copy of *A History of Ann Arbor,* by Jonathan L. Marwil.

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

The Fake Ad on p. 74 of the January Observer, for the American Recycling Bureau Organized to Reduce Waste and Energy Bills (ARBORWEB), proved to be quite a challenge, despite the organization's clunky acronym. Only ninety-nine diligent Fake Adders managed to spot it, and several of those commented on how difficult this one was to find.

That only goes to show just how clunky some of the other acronyms we deal with have become. UNESCO, the AFL-CIO, AFSCME—at some point it almost seems easier just to come up with a catchier name for the entity. The Fake Ad Czar watched bank commercials on television for years before he realized that Abn Amro wasn't the name of the friendly, well-dressed bank employee in the ad.

A reminder from the
American Recycling Bureau
Organized to Reduce Waste and Energy Bills
On January 21, Be Sure to Recycle
Your Old Christmas Tree and
Get Rid of Any Little Bush That's
Somehow Managed to Survive This Long.

Our winner, Ann Arbor's Robyn Schmier, was one of the successful entrants who thought the contest was tough this month. "This was the hardest Fake Ad contest yet," she wrote. "I had to go through the Observer five times." She's taking her gift certificate to Zingerman's Deli.

To enter, identify the February Fake Ad by name and page number and let us know at the address below. To old hands at our contest, "ARBORWEB" was their clue that they'd found the Fake Ad—*arborweb* is the name of an Observer website. The winner of our random drawing will receive a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue.

Send separate entries to Fake Ad or I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. *Fax:* (734) 769–3375. *Email:* backpage@aaobserver.com. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received in the Observer office by noon on Tuesday, February 10, will be eligible for the February drawings.

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FEBRUARY
2009

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5 February — PENNY W. STAMPS DISTINGUISHED VISTORS SERIES PRESENTATION

Jose Francisco Salgado: *Science Communication through Art and Technology*

José Francisco Salgado creates multimedia works that communicate science in engaging ways. Currently on staff at the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum in Chicago, Salgado has created Spanish-language programs, an Emmy-nominated astronomy news segment, and astronomy video suites. With support from the UM Winter 2009 Theme Semester, The Universe, Yours to Discover.

Presentation: 5:10pm
Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty

6 February – 6 March

Exhibition: *Imagining the Universe*

One hundred years ago we barely knew of the existence of our own Milky Way galaxy; today we know of many billions of galaxies. This exhibition explores the ways that artists/designers are making use of this information in both images and ideas. Held in conjunction with the LSA Theme Semester "The Universe: Yours to Discover."

Opening Reception: Friday 6 February 6 - 9pm
Slusser Gallery, 2000 Bonisteel Blvd, 1st Floor **and**
PLAY at www.playgallery.org

6 February – 6 March

Exhibition: *Storm*

Storms are inevitable. There are storms in nature, the storms that rage between cultures or among families and individuals, as well as the internal storms of the mind and soul. Artists and designers explore the potential of "storm" as metaphor.

Opening Reception: Friday 6 February 6 - 9pm
Work • Ann Arbor, 306 S. State **and**
PLAY at www.playgallery.org

12 February — PENNY W. STAMPS DISTINGUISHED VISTORS SERIES PRESENTATION

Anne Pasternak: *Public Art Then & Now: From the Strange to Spectacular and Back Again*

Anne Pasternak, President and Artistic Director of Creative Time, gives artists opportunities to innovate, use public space for creative work, and respond to timely issues. She has worked with such artists as Doug Aitken, Laurie Anderson, David Byrne, Jenny Holzer, Vik Muniz, Takashi Murakami, Shirin Neshat, Cai and Guo Qiang. With Support from the UM Institute for Research on Women and Gender, The Ann Arbor Public Art Commission, ArtServe Michigan, and Chelsea's River Gallery.

Presentation: 5:10pm
Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty

13 February

Exhibition Closing Reception: *Fear*

Artists and designers examine the power of fear to shape our perceptions and actions. What do you fear? What do you think others fear? What, if anything, should we all fear?

Closing Reception: Friday 13 February 6 - 9pm
Work • Detroit, 3663 Woodward Ave., Detroit

13 February – 6 March

Exhibition: *Near and Far: Contemporary Fine Prints*

Work by eight printmakers including A&D Associate Professor Endi Poskovic. Curated by Norman Stewart of Stewart&Stewart Fine Prints.

Opening Reception: 13 February, 2009 6 - 8PM
The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, 1516 S. Cranbrook, Birmingham

20 February – 20 March

Exhibition: *Change*

Is change wholesale transformation or a subtle shift? Does "change" imply a change in the future of art; the process of art or the meaning of arts involvement in society? Artists and designers present work that addresses "change" in all its meanings. Co-curated by Hamtramck based visual thinker, George Rahme.

Opening Reception: Friday 20 February 6 - 9pm
Work • Detroit, 3663 Woodward Ave., Detroit

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